

THE ALABAMA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

PETER A. BRANNON, *Editor*



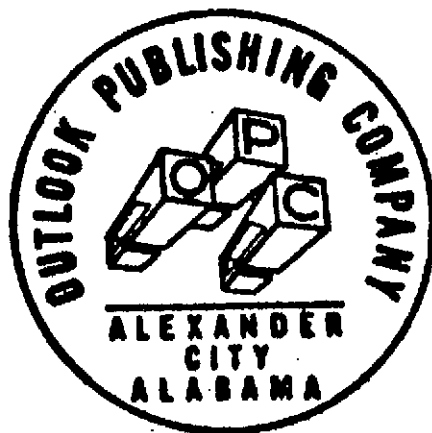
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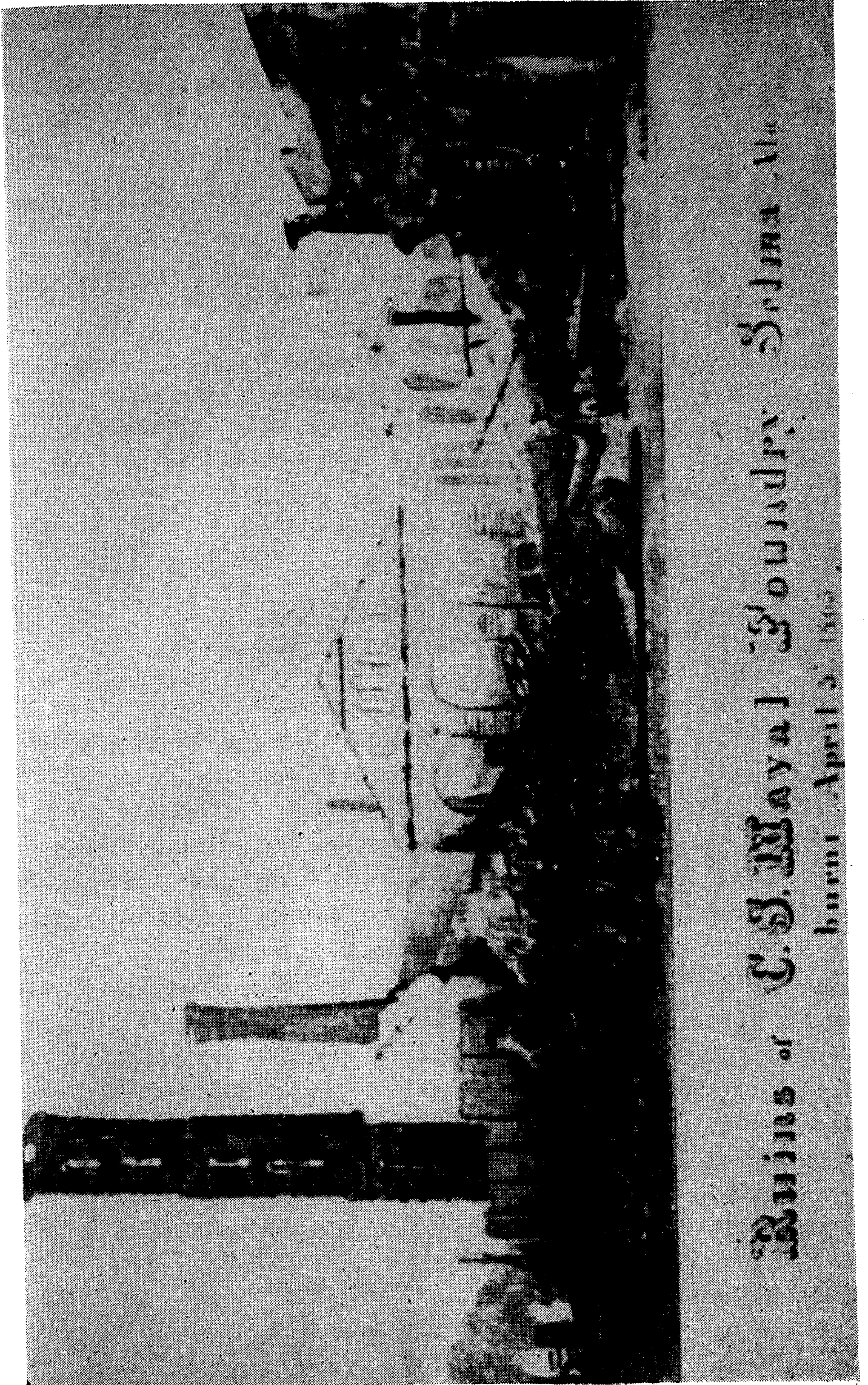
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EDITORIAL

The approaching of the centennial date of the War Between the States makes the interest in Confederate history all the more intense. Beginning with this number, it will be the effort of those of us who select the material for the Quarterly to give more attention to material of that character.

Mr. Stephen's study of the big guns manufactured at Selma, and other papers of that character will give the student of that period new data to make the Quarterly all the more useful.

—P.A.B.



Buildings of U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.

THE BROOKE GUNS FROM SELMA

by

Walter W. Stephen

(Walter Willisson Stephen, the author of this story, died at Oxford, which had been his home for twenty years, on November 7, 1958. Mr. Stephen had prepared the story of the Selma Iron Works guns and it was already assembled for publication, at the time of his death. He left notes of various and sundry characters concerning his work in Confederate research and it is our purpose to publish other papers authored by him. Mr. Stephen was a chemist by profession, having spent most of his professional life with the Monte Sano Chemical Company, the Southern Manganese Corporation and the Swann Chemical Company. He had sundry interests as he was a graduate in electrical engineering and in his younger years had been a football coach and an athletic director and he left a number of unpublished poems. His interest in Confederate ordnance and the Confederate Navy dates from his childhood dates and he credited his father with having instilled his love of the Confederacy. He was born in Mobile and he knew intimately the story of that city's Confederate days.)

The Confederate States Navy, during the early summer of 1863, assumed control of the cannon foundry at the Confederate ordnance work at Selma, Ala., the only place, except the Tredegar foundry at Richmond, Va., where heavy guns were made for the South during the Civil War. It had been built in 1861 by Colin McCrae, who operated it until he went to Europe on an official mission in 1863.¹

Captain Brooke, head of the Southern Ordnance and Hydrographic Bureau ordered Confederate Naval Commander Catesby ap. R. Jones to take charge here and to manufacture cannons that would be effective against ironclad warships. Commander Jones was very well qualified by knowledge and experience to do this, having spent part of his already long Naval service in the development of ordnance. He had, since the beginning of the Civil War, been associated with Captain Brooke in the construction of the famous ironclad *Virginia* and had commanded this ship, after Captain Buchanon was wounded, during her historic battle with the U. S. S. *Monitor*. He had also assisted in designing two gunboats that were being built at Columbus, Ga., on the Chattahoochee River.

¹"The Story of Coal and Iron in Alabama," Ethel Armes. 1910.

The type of gun that was selected to be made at the Selma Naval foundry was one that had been developed by Captain Brooke himself and produced since early in 1862, at the Confederate Iron Works at Richmond. It was one of the most powerful types of muzzle-loading rifled guns ever made, and one specimen in a test, had fired a projectile through an iron target eight inches thick.² Most of the other kinds of heavy cannon employed during the War Between the States were made from castings of ordinary foundry iron, with a few reinforced by single bands of wrought iron.

The fabulous Confederate Brooke guns were made of wrought iron or semi-steel and double-hooped with tremendous external bands from breech to trunnions. The bores of the rifled guns were cut with a system of spiral "inclined planes," a cross-section of which was something like saw teeth, instead of the usual lands and grooves in rifled guns.³ A few Brooke guns of several sizes were smooth-bores. Brooke guns, both rifled and smoothbores, were considerably heavier than any other types of cannon of the same caliber, some of them weighing nearly half again as much as any contemporary variety.⁴ Historians have described the Brooke as being better than the Parrott rifled gun, which was made for the Federal armed forces at the West Point Foundry, New York.⁵

The Brooke guns from Selma were made of metal tapped from several gigantic brick reverberatory furnaces. These were fired with very resinous pine wood that burned in the draft from high brick smokestacks and they were charged with Number One and some Number Two grade cold blast pig iron, that had been made by a charcoal smelting process in Bibb County, Ala. There were cases where one furnace fused more than 30,000 pounds of iron in one melting. This iron, besides being re-melted, was converted in these furnaces into a metal having some of the qualities of steel, with its tensile strength increased sometimes as much as forty percent.⁶ The carbon in this iron seems to have been lowered by keeping it melted a long time.

²"*Ordnance, 1863*," in Jan. 1953, issue of *Hobbies Magazine*. Navy Records, Series 2, Vol. 2, p. 407.

³"*Ordnance, 1863*," in Jan. 1953 issue *Hobbies Magazine*.

⁴From weights of existing guns. Official War Records

⁵*Spears' History of The United States Navy*. William A. Albaugh, III, authority on Civil War arms and author of several books on this subject. Adm. R. Bentham Simons, USN (Retired)

⁶"*The Story of Coal and Iron in Alabama*," Ethel Armes. 1910

Commander Jones in a letter, wrote that the foundry forces worked day and night for six days a week and that they were paid for each job rather than by the hour or day.⁷

George Peacock, a famous English ironmaster,⁸ was a valuable executive officer in operating the foundry and the names of J. M. Blankenship, L. Coleman, J. Donovan, J. Duncan, R. J. Masin, M. McLeod, J. Y. Miller and George and Willian Veitch, appear as chief moulders. M. Flinn, R. R. Griswold and O. W. Harrington were "Firemen." Blankenship and Flinn were listed in the process records of more than half of the guns that were made, while the Veitch brothers, afterwards pioneers in Birmingham industry, worked on many.⁹

Commander Jones was nearly killed by a molten iron explosion in the foundry late in 1863, his hat and clothing being burned off him. This, he wrote, was a serious financial loss in those days of fixed salaries and inflated currency.¹⁰

(The bibliographical references used by Mr. Stephen are confusing in that his notation "Naval Records of Civil War" are not identifiable in most cases and this citation must be accepted by the reader as a probable reference to data found by Mr. Stephen, at Washington, in the Naval records of the Confederacy, now filed in the National Archives. In most cases they do not refer to those volumes titled *Naval Records of the Union and Confederate Navies*. Editor.)

The manufacture of the first Brooke gun was begun at Selma on July 30, 1863, and the last one on December 19, 1864. The first gun shipped left Selma on January 8, 1864, and the last on March 22, 1865, a few days before Federal raiders destroyed the ordnance works.

A total of 102 Brooke guns were in the process of fabrication at the Selma Naval foundry, besides 20 small experimental 6-pounder guns, 20 mortars and a few 20 and 30-pounder Parrott-type rifled guns.¹¹ The story of how this was done with improvised equipment and very few skilled workmen is an incredible one.¹²

⁷*Naval Records of Civil War*, Series 1, Vol 20, p. 858

⁸"*The Story of Coal and Iron in Alabama*," Ethel Armes, 1910.

⁹*Records of operation at Selma Naval Foundry*. Vol. I and II.

¹⁰*Naval Records of Civil War*, Series 1, Vol. 20, p. 858

¹¹*Records of operation at Selma Naval Foundry*, Vol. I and II

¹²*Naval Records of Civil War*, Ser. I, Vol. 2, p. 898.

One item is that they had to make the chains they used for hoisting heavy objects, and also they devised an improved method of turning the trunnions of the guns.

The faded shop records, written in long hand and often in two directions across the pages, indicate that 53 Brooke guns were shipped from Selma to Mobile and that 20 were shipped from Selma to other places.¹³ The following is a summary of these:

Shipped to	Rifled			Smoothbore			Total
	6.4-in.	7-in.	11-in	8-in.	10.in-	11-in	
Mobile	10	28	1	5	5	4	53
Augusta, Ga.		1					1
Charlotte, N. C.	1						1
Peedee Bridge, S. C.	1	1					2
Wilmington, N. C.	1				1	1	3
Charleston, S. C.		4			1	1	6
Columbus, Ga.	2	5					7
Total	15	39	1	5	7	6	73

Seven guns appear to have been condemned by final inspection and some were never finished. A few completed guns were not shipped.¹⁴

Each Brooke gun from Selma was marked in several places with a serial number preceded by the letter S. Each gun was also marked with the year of completion and most of them with the weights in pounds. The right trunnions of all but the earliest ones were marked with the letters "C. ap R.J."¹⁵ the initials of Commander Catesby ap. R. Jones, C. S. Navy.

A number of these guns were mounted on vessels of the Southern Navy. The Confederate ironclad *Tennessee*, immortal for attacking an overwhelming Federal fleet at Mobile Bay, had two Brooke 7-inch rifled guns from Selma, Nos. S-10 and S-5, for her bow and stern pivot guns.¹⁶ The wooden gunboats with her, the *Gaines*, *Morgan*

¹³ and ¹⁴ Records of operation at Selma Foundry, Vols. I and II

¹⁵Marks on guns that exist today, also foundry record, Vols. I and II

¹⁶Naval Records of Civil War, Ser. 1, Vol. 21, p. 552

and *Selma*, each carried one or two 6.4-inch or 7-inch Brooke rifled guns from Selma. Brooke shells from these small vessels caused serious casualties on the Federal flagship *Hartford*, during the early minute of the battle of Mobile Bay.¹⁷

The *Nashville*, a partly completely Confederate ironclad that saw some action in the Spanish Fort campaign, had three 7-inch Brooke rifled guns from Selma that were made extra long to fit her casemates.¹⁸

Two Brooke rifles, a 6.4-inch gun and a 7-inch gun, S-53 and S-46, were sent from Selma to Peedee Bridge, South Carolina. They seem to have been part of the armament of the Confederate gunboat *Peedee*, built on the river with that name.¹⁹ Two armored gunboats, built by the Confederates at Columbus, Ga., were equipped with Brooke rifles from Selma. The *Muscogee* carried two 6.4-inch rifles, S-83 and S-102, and three 7-inch rifles, S-88, S-98 and S-99, from Selma, also a 6.4-inch rifled gun of unknown origin. A federal General highly complimented these guns.

The gunboat, *Chattahoochee*, carried two 7-inch Brooke rifles from Selma, S-81 and S-111.²⁰ These guns were recovered in 1910, from her burned wreck in the Chattahoochee River and are now mounted in front of the Jordan High School in Columbus, Georgia.

Brooke guns from Selma saw service in the coastal and river defense of several important cities. Two 7-inch rifles, S-25 and S-30,²¹ were mounted on the parapet of Fort Morgan during the battle of Mobile Bay.²² One of these, commanded by Captain J. W. Whiting, on August 5, 1864, disabled the U. S. cruiser *Oneida* and sank the U. S. gunboat *Phillipi*. Captain Whiting contended that these guns sank the U. S. monitor *Tecumseh* instead of a torpedo.²³ There were

¹⁷"The Battle of Mobile Bay," F. A. Parker, pp. 33, 61, 73.

¹⁸Naval Records of Civil War, Ser. 1, Vol. 21, pp. 892, 896.

¹⁹Records of operation at Selma Naval Foundry. Vol. 1, p. 203; Vol. 2, p. 34
Naval Records of Civil War, Ser. 2, Vol. 2, p. 751

²⁰Naval Records of Civil War, Ser. 1, Vol. 21, p. 876.

Records of operation at Selma Naval Foundry, Vol. 2, p. 149, 159, 181, 238, 243, 258, 309.

Marks on guns that were recovered from wreck of the *Chattahoochee*.

²¹Records of operation at Selma Naval Foundry, Vol. 1, pp. 92, 118.

²²O. W. R., Ser. 1, Vol. 34, Pt. 1, p. 19.

Centennial issue of *Mobile Register*, Sept. 1915, p. 49

²³Naval Records of Civil War, Ser. 1, Vol. 21, p. 598

also two 8-inch smoothbore Brooke guns, S-33 and S-35, on the glacis, or outer works, of Fort Morgan.²⁴

Fort Powell, on an artificial island in Grant's Pass between Dauphin Island and the mainland west of Mobile Bay, mounted a 7-inch Brooke rifled gun from Selma, S-19.²⁵ This gun, during February and March of 1864, in what could be called the first battle of Mobile Bay, figured in repulsing a fleet of light draft Federal men-of-war that approached Mobile Bay.²⁶ The engagement lasted nearly three weeks and ended after several of the United States vessels were damaged and towed away. Confederate Gen. Maury stated that Fort Powell in a spirited manner sustained the attack of Farragut.²⁷

One 11-inch rifled Brooke gun was made at the Confederate Naval foundry at Selma, S-125,²⁸ the last gun whose manufacture was begun there. It was shipped down the Alabama River on March 17, 1865, while Federal troops were beginning their advance upon Spanish Fort, across the bay from Mobile. It seems to have been mounted and saw service at Fort Huger, at a final defensive position on the channel to Mobile, from which Federal officers reported 230-pound rifled Brooke projectiles were fired during the last days of the campaign.²⁹

The last two 8-inch smoothbore Brooke guns shipped from Selma seem to have been used in this area of the final phase of the Spanish Fort campaign. They were Nos. S-20 and S-26. The latter now lies in the Confederate cemetery at Gainesville, Alabama. There is a legend at Gainesville that this gun was brought up the Tombigbee River to Gainesville when the defenses of Mobile fell. It could have been carried by either one of at least four steamers that fled from Mobile to Gainesville at this time.³⁰

²⁴Records of operation at Selma Naval Foundry, Vol. 1, pp. 92, 118.

²⁵Records of operation at Selma Foundry.

²⁶Naval Records of Civil War, Ser. 1, Vol. 21, p. 880

O. W. R., Ser. 1, Vol. 32, pt. 1, p. 402.

Battle of Mobile Bay, by F. A. Parker, p. 123

²⁷Lt. Frederick Ferguson, father of Mr. Hill Ferguson, a historian and prominent citizen of Birmingham, had charge of this gun and was promoted to be captain of Artillery for meritorious service in the siege of Fort Powell, (From "Northern Alabama" by Smith and Davis)

²⁸Records of operation at Selma Naval Foundry, *Naval Records*, Washington in National Archives.

²⁹O. W. R., Ser. 1, Vol. 49, pt. 1, p. 221

³⁰Naval Records of Civil War, Ser. 1, Vol. 20, p. 263

O. W. R., Ser. Vol. 49, pt. 2, p. 1238

A score or so of Brooke guns from Selma, seven-inch rifles and giant ten and eleven-inch smoothbores, were a factor in making the triple ring of fortifications around Mobile during the Civil War so powerful that no enemy force attacked them.³¹

Two 7-inch Brooke rifled guns from Selma remained at Choctaw Bluff on the Alabama River in Clarke County, Ala., after Confederate forces left Fort Stonewall there on April 14, 1865. A Federal general termed these "guns of a superior quality" and preserved them for that reason.³² Both had been shipped from Selma on January 6, 1865.³³ One, S-95, still at Choctaw Bluff, on the estate of Mr. F. T. Stimpson, stands guard over the rolling river. The other is mounted at the entrance of Fort Morgan on the peninsula on the west side of the entrance of Mobile Bay.

A reproduction of the complete foundry record of making this gun, No. S-89, is appended to these pages.³⁴

A 6.4 Brooke rifled gun, S-96, was shipped from Selma to Mobile on December 21, 1864. It was at Choctaw Bluff and seems to have been thrown into the Alabama River when the Confederates abandoned this stronghold. It was recovered by a "snag" boat and is now mounted in front of the city hall at Jackson, Alabama.³⁵

Four 7-inch Brooke rifled guns were shipped from Selma to Charleston, S. C., and were used in the heroic defense of that city.³⁶ They were Numbers S-70, S-74, S-76, and S-86. One S-76, remains today on the Battery overlooking the bay where the Civil War began. It had been mounted at Fort Johnson, at James Island. Two immense Brooke smoothbores, S-87, a 10-inch gun and S-97, an 11-inch gun, were also shipped from Selma to Charleston, but in some way ended their journey at Columbus, Ga.,³⁷ and are now mounted in the courthouse square there.

Three Brooke guns, a 6.4-inch rifle, a 10-inch and an 11-inch smoothbore, were shipped from Selma to Wilmington, N. C., and

³¹O. W. R., Ser. 1, Vol. 39, pt. 1, p. 419

³²O. W. R., Ser. 1, Vol. 49, pt. 11, p. 496

³³Naval Records, Selma Naval Foundry, Vol. 2, pp. 186, 219.

³⁴Records of operation of Selma Naval Foundry, Vol. 2, p. 224

³⁵Records of Alabama Archives and History Dept.

³⁶Records of operation of Selma Naval Foundry. Vol. 2, pp. 100; 118; 127; 182.

³⁷Mr. Alva C. Smith, Sec.-Treas. Columbus, Ga., Historical Society.

were among the weapons that kept the port of Wilmington open for blockade runners after every other Southern harbor was closed.³⁸

The gun makers at Selma worked almost until they heard enemy gunfire. They completed S-103, a 7-inch rifled Brooke gun, by drilling its touch hole on March 21, 1865. It was placed on a river steamer for Mobile on March 22, and the story of making the Brooke guns at Selma was ended.³⁹

Gun No. 89 7-inch

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Selma Cannon Foundry, Ala.

Selma Cannon Foundry, Ala.

Date Monday, July 25, 1864

Wind East

Weather Clear

Mould made of strong loam and small portion of sharp sand

Moulders J. M. Blankenship & assistants

Flasks used in 7 sections

Meltings of Furnace No. 3 63 times

Mould in oven 24 hours

Charge of Furnace No. 3

	Pigs	Pounds
	-----	-----
Bibb cold blast pig iron No. 1	50	6,000
No. 1, low order	95	12,000
	-----	-----
	145	18,000

Mode of charging furnaces Iron in four piles. In the first pile below the tap hole 3 layers of low order No. 1 In second pile next to tap hole 3 layers of No. 1 & 7,000 lbs of low order No. 1 on it. In third pile 5 layers of No. 1 and the balance of low order No. 1 on it. In fourth pile the balance of No. 1 Iron laid cross ways.

³⁸Records of operation of Selma Naval Foundry. Vol. 2, p. 265; 176; 229

³⁹Records of operation of Selma Naval Foundry. Vol. 2, p. 265; 176; 229

Character of metal

Bibb cold blast pig iron No. 1 Fracture ragged and uneven. Color very dark bluish gray. Texture loose not uniform it being closer near the extreme edge and often in other parts of fracture. It has a chilled exterior. Except part large not uniform very angular and very sharp to the touch. The crystals have a very light appearance. The crystals near the extreme edge are smaller & they are often smaller in other parts of fracture running in veins lengthwise with the pig. The fracture is very irregular. Pigs broke in two. They were thrown from embankment onto a gunhead.

Bibb Cold Blast Iron No. 1 low order. Fracture ragged & uneven. Color dark bluish gray. Texture medium loose not uniform, it being almost in the center of some pigs and others the outer edge. There is no regularity. Crystals medium large not uniform, angular and very sharp to the touch. They have a very bright appearance. The crystals run in streaks or veins of different size in different parts of fracture, some being very large and some being very small.

Wood Sawed about 18 inches in length

Kind pine *Character* good (resinous)

Oven lighted at 8 AM

Fireman M. Flinn

Metal commenced to fuse at 9.05 AM

Gun No. 89 *7-inch* *continued*

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Total fusion at 3.15 PM

Furnace tapped at 5.11½ PM

Time in total fusion 1 hour 56½ minutes

Commenced running from reservoir 5.12 PM

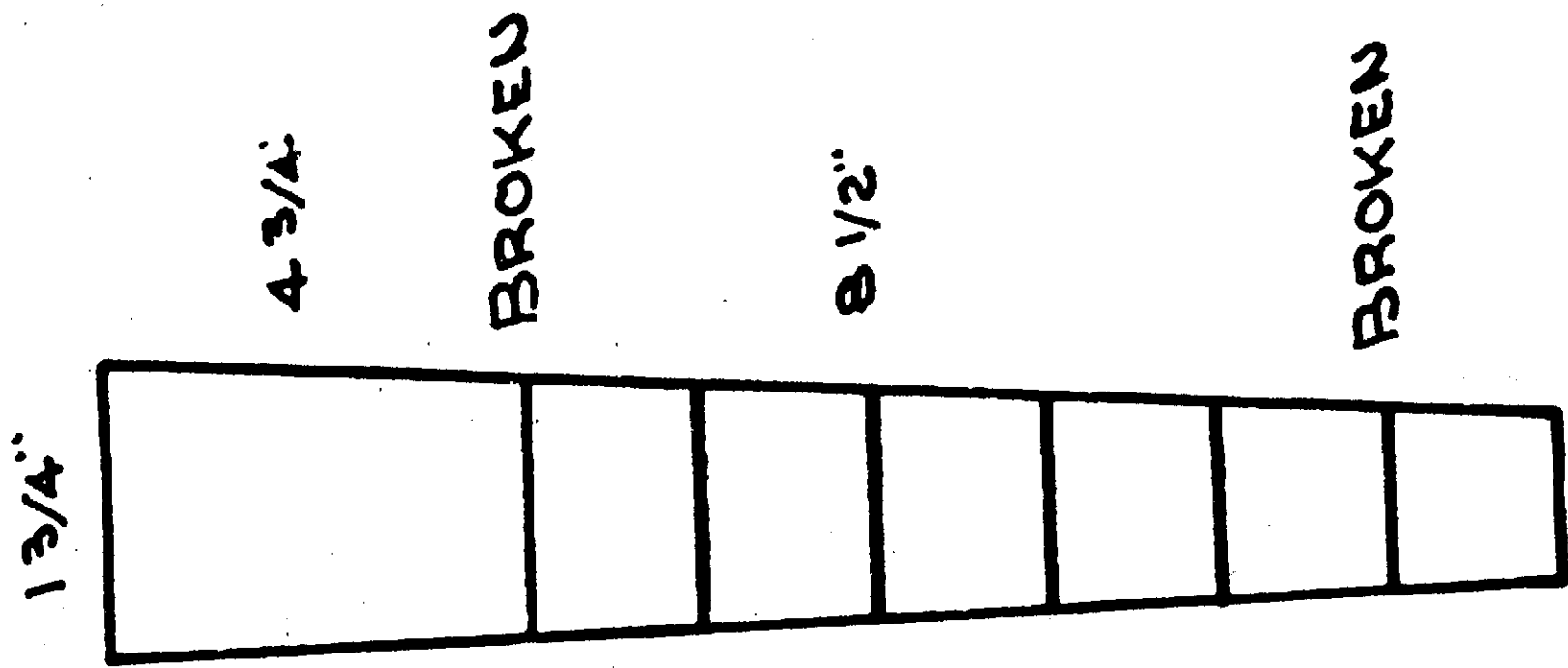
Time in running into mould 4½ minutes

Appearance of metal Color white, fluid, sparking slightly.

Slag Only a small amount.

To retard cooling Charcoal put on top of gunhead 10 minutes after gun was cast. An iron cover put over it on top of pit which was covered with earth and sand also the plate on which the cover rested.

Sample Diagram



They were cooled in a puddle of slag and water. Broke at the 1st and 6th marks.

(Note by author: Samples as in diagram above for control purposes were dipped out of furnace during melting with a ladle, cooled and broken at places noted for examination of “fracture” of metal. By this method foundrymen determined how long to keep charge in furnace melted.)

1st Taken out 2.25 PM Metal in fusion at 1st mark. White, decidedly mottled.		6th mark. Light gray, slightly mottled.	
2nd	2.55 PM	1st mark.	White, decidedly motlled
		6th mark.	Light gray, very slightly mottled.
3rd	3.25 PM	1st mark.	White, decidedly mottled.
		6th mark.	Light gray, slightly mottled.
4th	3.55 PM	1st mark.	White, decidedly mottled.
		6th mark.	Light gray, slightly mottled.

5th	4.25 PM	1st mark. White, slightly mottled.
		6th mark. 8/10 white, decidedly mottled.
6th	4.40 PM	1st mark. White, slightly mottled, less than in the 5th.
		6th mark. Between 7/10 and 8/10 white, decidedly mottled 4th & 5th.
7th	4.55 PM	1st mark. White, very slighthy mottled.
		6th mark. Between 8/10 and 9/10 white, decidedly mottled but less than in the 5th.

Furnace Draught good. Flame good but not a very clear flame. The flame was better after 12 AM than before that time. The side of the furnace projected into it 3 inches after tapering off 6 inches at a distance of 2 feet on each side. The Reverbaratory Arch was found down at 4.25 PM.

Metal ran through trough into reservoir and from it through trough into gun mould. The last section of trough has two gates. The first leading into runner of flask led to the breech. The metal ran through it until the mould was filled two feet above gun proper. The gate was then closed with a plug & second opened allowing the metal to run into the top until filled to within 2 inches of the top. No slag ran in.

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Gun No. 89 7-inch Continued

Cover taken off August 1st.

Hoisted out " 2nd

In pit 8 days

Temperature when taken out Too hot to press hand against it.

Placed in Boring Mill August 18th

No thermal imperfections

Head cut off August 17th

Length of Gunhead 50 inches. Diameter greatest at end next to muzzle 14.38 in. Least at end of G.H. 13.60 inches. Cavity 9 inches.

Character of fracture Diameter 4½ inches very tough to break. Fracture very ragged & uneven. Color very dark gray & a good deal of white very decidedly mottled crystals medium large and small not uniform very sharp to the touch. Fracture bright.

Muzzle faced August 19th.

Commenced to bore gun August 19th 9½ PM

1st core out August 23rd 8 AM Length 31¾ in.

Very tough to break. Sound. Fracture ragged and uneven. Color was dark gray, a good deal of white, decidedly mottled. Crystals small not uniform. Sharp to the touch.

Note Sept. 6th 2 PM Tool taken out and antlers (?) found quite soft & had to be hardened. This is the cause of boring so slow.

2nd core out Sept. 6th 2 PM Length 38 inches

Very tough to break. Sound. Fracture ragged and uneven. Color very dark gray with a bluish cast a great deal of white decidedly mottled.

Crystals small not uniform. Sharp to the touch.

Third core out Sept. 16th 7½ AM Length 30¾ inches

Very tough to break. Sound. Fracture ragged and uneven. Color very dark gray, a little white very decidedly mottled. Crystals very small not uniform. Sharp to the touch.

4th core out Sept. 29th 8 AM Length 31 inches

Very tough to break. Sound. Fracture ragged and uneven. Color very dark gray, a good deal of white decidedly mottled. Crystals small not uniform. Tough to the touch. A few large crystals, Fracture has a close appearance.

Total time boring with Hollow B_____? for bore 705½ hours

Gun No. 89 7-inch Continued

Total time boring with 1st Piercer for chamber	56	hours
Comm'd Sept. 27, 3 PM Up Sept. 29 11 PM		
Total time boring with 2nd Piercer for chamber	56	hours
Comm'd Sept. 30 8 AM Up Oct. 2nd 5 AM		
Total time boring with 1st Reamer for chamber	41	hours
Comm'd Oct. 4th 8 AM Up Oct. 6th 1 AM		
Total time boring with 2nd Reamer for bore	35	hours
Comm'd Oct. 6th 8 AM Up Oct. 8th 3 PM		
Total time boring with 3rd Reamer for chamber	2	hours
Total time boring gun	895½	hours
Measurement of bore of chamber with rod	121.11	inches
Measurement of bore of chamber with cylinder	114.35	inches
Rifling Comm'd Oct. 17th 5 PM Fin'd Oct. 19 9 PM	13	hours
Turning Comm'd Oct. 20 8 AM Fin'd Oct. 2 10 AM	31	hours
Trunnions Finished October 27 8 PM		
Metal very tough. Seemed soft to the tool		20 hours
Bands The small or inner bands put on Oct. 31st		
Comm'd turning Nov. 1st 7½ AM Fin'd Nov. 7 11 AM		
The large or outer bands put on Nov. 10th		
Turned off in lathe	before they were put on	52½ hours

Gun No. 89 7-inch Continued

Sighting Finished Nov. 17th	33	hours
Elevating Screw Finished drilling for same Nov. 18th. Thread cut for new screws. Metal very tough and soft to tool.		
	11	hours
Cascabel Block Finished fitting Nov. 22nd		
Metal tough and hard to tool	12	hours
Breeched Nov. 21st	6	hours
Vent Bored Nov. 23rd		

Metal tough & hard to tool

3 hours

Inspected Nov. 29th

Distance between Sight Box & Sight Line on Sight Bar 2.38 inches

Weight 14,800 lbs Prep. at Base Line 904 lbs On screw 735 ----

*Turned over to QrM for shipment to Flag Officer E. Farrand C.S.N.
Mobile, Ala. January 6th, 1865*



Brooke 7-inch rifled gun, S-89, made by Confederates at Selma, Ala., similar to gun used at siege of Fort Powell. This was the most powerful type of gun for the size used by either side in Civil War. It is now at Fort Morgan, having been for years in place as a marker at the Headquarters building of Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery. This cannon and the one at Jackson, in Clarke County, were presented in 1922, by Mr. George Colton, to the Department of Archives and History and one came to Montgomery on the Alabama and the other to Jackson, on the Tombigbee, through the co-operation of the Government dredge boat then operating. It is questionable whether this gun ever got to Mobile when it was sent down the river about the first of 1865, from Selma. The two large guns were at the close of the War, at Fort Stonewall and had not been mounted. Confederate plans anticipated defenses above the junction of the Alabama and the Tombigbee rivers in order to protect the upper country from the Federal gun boats at Mobile and Fort Stonewall was planned at the point just a short distance downstream from old Gainestown.

ASA JORDAN BLAIR'S PART IN THE CIVIL WAR

(Asa Jordan Blair, born in Georgia, moved to Tallapoosa County, Alabama, prior to 1860. His father, Robert Kirkpatrick Blair settled about four miles east of Goodwater. Asa Jordan Blair married Sophronia Phillips on his return home at the close of the War and he lived the rest of his life in Hatchet Creek community about five miles north of the present town of Goodwater. He is mentioned in Dr. Mitchell B. Garrett's *Horse and Buggy Days on Hatchet Creek*, as the "Squire." The records show that Mr. Blair was a Justice of the Peace for that area and that he was one time a candidate for the Legislature and was defeated by only a few votes.)

The following account was given by Grandfather Blair to his grandchildren:

Our battalion and the Georgia battalion made up the Tenth Confederate Regiment. From Montgomery, Alabama, I went to Knoxville, Tennessee, where I joined Hillad Legion Cavalry. I was put in the bodyguard of Curly Smith. I next went to Lexington, Kentucky. There at Pine Wood Gap we had a false alarm. We had never had a battle and the boys thought their time had come. After this we went within four miles of Cincinnati, Ohio. Returning to Frankfort, Kentucky, we joined Bragg's army. We were then forced back into Tennessee.

Then stopping our retreat at Cumberland Gap, now known as Statesboro, we (150) had to live eleven days on one pound of flour. While here I decided I would get me a goose. Through mistake I got the oldest goose in Tennessee. I boiled it all day and part of the night, but it never got to where I could put my knife in it.

We then went to Knoxville where we did scout duty until the Battle of Chickamauga. This was our first real battle. Our regiment was the second regiment. We did picket fighting until the regular army marched on. Then we gave way to the regular army.

Each soldier had a belt and a cartridge box, gun, ramrod, and supplies to make a shell. The way we made a shell was to take a minnow ball, wrapped it with paper but left it hollow which we filled with powder, then folding the end of the paper. When we went to load, we tore off the folded part and used our ramrod to put it in our gun.

After the Battle of Chickamauga we went to Tunnel Hill, Georgia; from there to Recca, making a stand there. In the dark of the night

Bragg retreated. We crossed the river at daybreak.

The bread wagon failed to come while we were at Recca. Starting to the rear we saw the bread wagon had been raided and the ponies thrown on the ground. We stopped and ate our breakfast of bread and water. For thirty days we stayed at Recca, hearing bullets go whistling over our heads. I haven't words to tell how I felt when I was on the battlefield. From Recca we went to Kentuck mountains. We made another stand there with nothing to do but guard.

When we got to camp at night, we usually danced and sang. From Kentuck we went to Minneretta. Just above the town we were placed on picket duty. The enemy came within one hundred yards of us. General Cleveland came to the rescue. They killed seven hundred men on one acre of ground, not moving the enemy until five o'clock. One of the most horrid experiences was to see a man shot over by your side. It was awful to hear the cries "I'm killed."

While retreating from Minneretta, we shelled the Yankees at Pontoon Bridge. We came near destroying the men on the bridge. We did no more fighting until we got back to Georgia.

When Hood went west, he ordered General Wheeler to take his men and go back. We left Social Circle, Georgia, August 10, 1863. We got on a railroad wagon at Dalton. There we had to fight and run the Yankees into their fort. We continued toward Athens until we got to Loudon, Tennessee. From there we went to Knoxville and from there to middle Tennessee. At Kingston the enemy was so strong that our brigade had to retreat into Virginia to Saltville. There we had a little battle and drove the enemy to Ashville. Going through South Carolina, we crossed into Georgia where we disbanded for a few days. We joined the attack on Sherman below Atlanta and made our way through Georgia. We then returned to Sollberry, South Carolina. There the surrender came.

—Submitted by his grandson, John Clyde Blair, Sr.
Montgomery, Alabama

* * * *

Asa Jordan Blair is shown on the election returns of an outfit then rendezvoused at Cusseta in the present Chambers County, known

as the Huey Rifles and which later became Co. E, of the 5th Bn., of Hilliard's Legion, as a 4th Corporal. The record show him enlisted as Asa. This outfit was some times shown as the 1st Bn., of Alabama Cavalry, but it never served as such. He was commissioned as 4th Corporal, February 5, 1862. The original muster roll of Co. C, 10th Alabama Cavalry shows A. J. Blair, age 25, from Tallapoosa County, as 4th Corporal. A record filed in the U. S. Adjutant General's archives at Washington, shows this man Private in Co. E, 10th Cavalry Regiment, having originally enlisted September 1, 1861, at Talladega, and discharged April 26, 1865. A census of Confederate Veterans still living in 1907, shows Mr. Jordan originally enlisted October, 1861, at Pinckneyville, as a Corporal in Bell's Battalion, of Hilliard's Legion. This census record shows that Mr. Blair was born July 15, 1835, at Milledgeville, in Washington County, Ga., and that his company was mustered in and formed a part of the 10th Confederate Cavalry, when Hilliard's Legion was broken up to form three Alabama outfits and one Georgia outfit. The Georgia outfit though was combined with an Alabama unit and the two battalions became this Confederate Cavalry. Mr. Blair certified in 1908 that he served two years as a courier and commanded a squad of scouts as a Lieutenant for three months before the surrender. This statement would authenticate his reference in his recollections to his service as a body guard of "Curly" Smith.

Mr. Blair's recollections are used as he told them to one of his grandchildren and in writing them they have entered his statements as they sounded. For example, his reference to Sollsberry, S. C. The outfit surrendered at Salisbury, N. C. The town of Minneretta is not identified but it is undoubtedly some locality in Tennessee.

The above is compiled and elaborated from the official military records.
—Editor

REMINISCENCES OF PEROTE IN BULLOCK

By A Native

Catharine Elizabeth (Hixon) Rumph*

Foreword

Nestled among the rolling hills of Bullock County, five miles from the Pike County line, fifteen miles south of the country seat, Union Springs, lies the community of Perote, Alabama. The well-traveled U. S. Highway 29, splits it through the center and passengers in expensive Florida bound autoes scarcely turn their heads as they whiz past. A person standing in front of Capps' Store cannot see the homes as he gazes northward. So well shielded are they by thick-growing vegetation and cedar, elm and age-old oaks that line the curve of the highway.

Only two general stores are in operation where was once a thriving business center, now characterized by empty buildings that scarce can stand. These two stores are owned by Jerry Capps and C. Melvin Blue, Jr., and cater chiefly to the colored trade who run accounts until they get their "draw." A short distance is Brabham's Store, while to the south is Perote's Post Office. Twice a day the inhabitants of Perote make their way to the post office to ask for the "*Montgomery Advertiser*" and whatever the U. S. mail truck may bring on its northward run from Troy and its southward run from Union Springs. Men gather around a coal heater in winter and talk of crops, politics, old times, or listen to the oft-repeated stories of Charles White, who was once champion baseball player, fisherman, hunter and farmer of the village. At times the "*Union Springs Herald*" arrives with news of local interest, lately supplemented by comic strips, jokes, and stories of no particular interest.

(Charles White departed this life November 2, 1957, shortly after this was written.)

* Catherine Elizabeth (Hixon) Rumph was born in Bullock County and has lived during her entire life time there. She is the daughter of a Confederate Veteran who was some time a prisoner at Ship Island off the coast of Mississippi and grew up in the environment of the small country village about which she writes and among interesting Confederate associates. Mrs. Rumph has collected Americana, folk lore and historical data and contributed in no small way to the life of this rural community.

Northwest of the post office stands the Methodist Church, and behind slightly right, is the building which once was a school, but is now a community club house. A dwindling white population caused the school to be cut to six grades in 1945, and in 1947, the elementary school was consolidated with the Inverness School five miles away.

Only a few of the older residents of Perote are left to recall the days when the community was a thriving, bustling town which served as a social and educational center for the surrounding territory. It is of the development and gradual decline of this little village that this is now written in the hope that relatives of those who loved and cherished it will treasure these memories and that they may find passing interest.

—Mrs. Thaxton Harris (Carolyn (Hixon) Harris)

SETTLEMENT AND EARLY HISTORY OF PEROTE

The first settler who came to this part of the country was Samuel Sellers from Georgia in 1834. He located 2½ miles west of the present site of Perote and called the settlement Missouri because the land resembled that on the Missouri River. Samuel Sellers served as first postmaster. (Information from Miss Helen Davis of Montgomery, Ala., great granddaughter.) About 1835 Daniel Fulford came from South Carolina on the Tar River, and built the first house and store at what is now the present site of Perote and it was called Fulford's Cross Roads. About the same time Samuel Hixon and his sister Abigail, who married a Peach came. Daniel Fulford married Sarah Hixon, daughter of Samuel Hixon and moved to Geneva, Alabama.

The house that Daniel Fulford built was of logs and is still standing on the northeast corner of the cross roads. It now belongs to the estate of Mrs. B. G. High. The house originally had two large rooms and a wide open hall. There were two rooms forming an ell on the south room and a shed room on the east of the north room. A porch extended the length of the ell. There was a porch across the front with a shed room on each end. The house was remodeled by B. G. High about 1907. The shed rooms on the front were made much larger and the logs were covered with weatherboards. A hip roof replaced the original gable roof. Mr. Fulford sold his house and store to Mr. William Johnson from beyond Double Creek, 3 miles south of Perote.

Mr. Johnson rented this house to Dr. Reynolds, who moved here from Georgia, and he took boarders. Later Mr. C. W. Rumph came into possession of it and sold it to Mrs. Carrie Wilson, widow of Dr. La Fayette Wilson. She was the 2nd wife of Dr. Wilson. Mrs. Wilson and Mrs. Engram lived there together. Mrs. Wilson had a hat shop and Mrs. Engram took in sewing. Mrs. Engram moved to Eufaula where her son clerked for Mr. Cliff Lock, a relative of theirs. Mrs. Wilson remarried and moved to Florida and sold the house to B. G. High.

When the post office was moved from the Sellers settlement, about 1846, Fulford's Cross Roads became known as Missouri Cross Roads. Mr. Johnson was the first postmaster, and earned a salary of \$12.91 for ¾ of that year.

After the return of the soldiers from the Mexican War, Mr. Allen Main, father of John G. Main (some of his children still live in Perote)

suggested that the name of the place be changed to Perote for the beautiful fortress Perote, Mexico. Through the influence of Mr. Johnson and the Postmaster General the name was changed in 1852.

It is not known how often the mail came to Missouri Cross Roads, but in the 1880's it came three times a week. Almost every family took the Tri-Weekly Atlanta Constitution. All enjoyed the articles by Bill Arp, Aunt Susie, Uncle Remus, and Talmage's Sermons. Later postmasters and postmistresses were Miss Willie Locke, Mr. Caleb Cox, A. B. Laney, J. G. Main, Miss Helen Davis and Mrs. Eulalia Main who is the present postmistress.

Soon after the post office was moved to Missouri Cross Roads, large bodies of land were entered for speculation by Ben Petty of Clayton, Alabama and Mr. Aaron Packer of Eufaula. This land was entered at from 25 to 50 cents an acre and sold for \$5.00 to \$10.00 an acre. Each realized a handsome fortune from these sales. (Taken from Mrs. M. J. Rumph's scrapbook.)

Settlers began coming in rapidly. Among the first were a family of Tillmans who lived in a house where Mr. Job Patterson lived. Charlie Tillman became an evangelist and wrote revival songs. In 1911 he held a revival here and many were converted. Margie Rumph, the Whites and Eloise Peach West were among them. When a small boy, he accidentally shot and killed his eight month's old sister his mother held in her arms. This tragedy occurred in 1868. (Tombstone record.)

Job Patterson came from Ireland to Georgia and from there to Perote and is buried in the cemetery here. He built the house that is owned by Jerry Capps now. (1958). It had two large rooms with a wide closed in hall between, three rooms on the south room forming an ell. A porch ran the length of the north room and in front of the ell. The front porch was the width of the hall and had two large columns. It had a gable roof. It has been remodeled but the front is the same except the hall had double doors. Now it has a single door.

Mr. Patterson built another house for his son. He died and his son's wife died and they sold the house to Mrs. Saphronia (?) Carroll. All of the Carrolls died, John Carroll died in 1957 and the house was sold to Mrs. Ethel Lott Brown. It has two large 18 x 18 x 16 foot rooms with a wide closed in hall between and two smaller rooms back of them. The hall extended the length of the rooms. It had two rooms

on the east side of the south room that formed an ell. A porch extended the length of them and the hall and north room. There was a wide porch all across the front with four large columns. There was a hip roof.

Mr. C. W. Rumph, Sr. built a house directly in front of the Carroll house on the same plan.

The McCall brothers opened a store opposite the C. W. Rumph residence. (They evidently lived here before the Pattersons. I remember the Pattersons but not any McCalls.) The Pattersons left here about 1883. John Peach built to the south of the C. W. Rumph's and kept a stock of groceries. He later moved his grocery store south of the cross roads on the west side of the highway. Mr. Tasso Culver lived in a house just south of C. W. Rumph, Sr. early in the 1880's.

Dr. Thacker Walker of Texas and Dr. William Harris formed a co-partnership. They built an office in the northwest corner of what is now Jerry Capps' front yard and practiced medicine for a while. Dr. McLester came to Perote, probably from Georgia, and afterwards married Miss Jemima Hixon; Dr. William Crossley graduated in medicine and located here about the same time. Dr. Huey came from Salem, Alabama soon after and built a small house which became the property of Bascom Laney. His father-in-law, Dr. Kennon, came the next year, and about the same time, 1857, Dr. J. D. Rumph moved in from his plantation in Barbour County to school his children at Perote and bought a house that Rev. Robert Haynes built back of the school house and Dr. Dunn improved. Dr. Padgett came from Midway. Drs. Bryan and Skinner moved from their plantations, three miles west of Perote for the benefit of the school. In the course of seventeen years all of these doctors practiced medicine with the exception of Dr. Rumph and Dr. Bryan. In addition to these were Drs. McSwain, Reed, Hayse, Cook and Moye served as physicians. "The lands were very heavily timbered and clearing them in such large bodies produced much sickness."

Dr. J. D. Rumph came from Orangeburg, South Carolina and settled in Barbour County near Mr. Andrew. He graduated in medicine from the South Carolina Medical College, March 9, 1836 and practiced medicine there moving to Alabama. He always kept a jar of leeches to bleed his patients. After moving to Perote he did not practice medicine except for the negroes who lived on his plantation.

Other doctors were Dr. Lafayette Wilson who married Miss Imogene Pitts, died in 1887; Dr. J. Olin Zeigler who married Miss Florence Pitts, died in 1897; Dr. William A. Walker who married Miss Velisha Pitts, died in 1907s; Dr. Frank P. Hixon moved to Pensacola, Florida in 1913 and died there in 1936. He graduated in medicine at Vanderbilt University in 1898 and practiced medicine in Perote before moving to Pensacola. He married Miss Daisy Everitt of Pensacola in 1904; Dr. William Shaw married Miss Jennie Mae DeLoach of Perote. He moved to Clio, Alabama; Dr. James W. Thomason, married Miss Virginia Mizelle of Ozark, Alabama; Dr. James Robertson, married Miss Turpsie Wicker of Perote; Dr. Stanley was here in 1925, moved to Banks, Alabama and Perote has been without a doctor since 1926.

Three miles north of Perote was the John Tullis home. The first gravel that was put on a road in Bullock County was on Tullis Lane, one mile in length. It was the worst road in the area but the most travelled.

One of the earliest settlers was Col. E. W. Starke. His house was built in the bend of the road north of town is still standing and in good repair. It is built on the same plan as the Carroll home. Col. Starke owned a large plantation and had a carriage and horses. When he and his family rode to church on Sunday, the Colonel would stop at Mr. Bill Miles' house for a flower to wear on his coat. In winter Mrs. Starke carried a small coal to church to keep her feet warm. Colonel Starke was a member of the Home Guard during the Civil War. He was Tax Assessor at the time of his death.

Samuel Hixon and his sister Abigail Peach came to Perote in 1835 from Kershaw County, South Carolina. It is not known where the Peach family lived but they are buried in Perote Cemetery and their descendants are prominent citizens of Alabama, several of them becoming lawyers, one school teacher and one a dentist. All of them are college graduates.

Samuel Hixon built a house about ½ mile south of the cross roads. It was of logs and had a large living room with a wide fireplace on the south end, a long narrow bedroom on the north, two rooms on the west of these. There was a shed room on the north end of the front porch. This room was called the "Doctor's Room" because Dr. William McLester boarded there and that was his room. There were two rooms upstairs. The original kitchen was in the back yard, some distance from

the house and the family ate out there. There were two smoke houses, one without a floor where meat was cured and smoked. Mrs. Hixon would send five miles for bear grass with which to hang the meat to the rafters. A loom house stood to the south of the house. It was here that Mrs. Hixon wove cloth and made coverlets for the beds. In the winter she would roast eggs, potatoes and chestnuts in the fireplace for her grandchildren.

As the population of Perote increased the citizens main interest were the church and school. Two churches were erected, Methodist and Baptist. The Presbyterian Church was five miles to the north of Perote in the Scotland settlement.

On a street that ran up the hill in front of the Baptist Church a carriage factory was built by a Mr. Parris. "The newly painted vehicles in the upper gallery made this part of the village look quite townish." The same year this shop was finised, and at the close of the school exercises there was a fine supper in a long room in the upper story of the building. Large crowds came from Enon, Glennville, Clayton, Salem, and other towns. The young ladies dressed elegantly in silks and costly laces, the gentlemen also, both from our own and neighboring towns, for the people were quite prosperous. At one time twelve couples came from Salem alone, stopping with relatives and friends about the place. "Dr. Thacker Walker married a young lady from Enon who visited in Perote." (From Mrs. Rumph's scrapbook).

Two young men, Wilson brothers from Salem built a store which stood in the corner of what is known as the park opposite the house owned by Mrs. Wilson. A Mr. Goss from Georgia bought them out. Dr. Padgett built a store joining them on the southern side. Drs. Walker and Zeigler sold groceries in an adjoining building, joining him on the corner. After the Civil War six fires reduced the size of the town and as there was no railroad or industry except farming to keep the place up, it dwindled in size. Still it shows the imprint of better times and noble citizenship—such characters as George Rodgers and his gentle high-toned wife; Mr. John Tullis, father of Mrs. Frank Ellison of the Alabama Methodist Conference, Judge Abe Miles and his useful Christian wife; Mr. Dan A. Hixon, Mr. Hayes, Mr. J. W. Crossley, Capt. G. W. Dawson, Mrs. Ezra Baxter (Mrs. Samuel Hixon), and many others have left their imprint for good upon it.

On the west side of the highway was a small shop where Mr. Bill

Miles repaired and made sturdy shoes. On the same side but behind the stores Mr. Walter Brooks had a blacksmith shop. A number of years after he moved away Mr. Elvis Rodgers used it. On the east side of the highway there was another blacksmith shop where Rafe Lampley, Sr., a colored man shod horses and mules. After his death Mr. McKenzie worked there. He lived in a log house back of the cemetery. It had two large rooms with an open hall between. The dining room and kitchen were a short distance from the house connected by a platform.

Perote mut have been incorporated in its early days because it was re-instared in May 1926. Mr. Ben Smith was elected marshal. He had a guardhouse built and was the first person put in it. It was for getting drunk and disturbing the peace.

In 1909 Perote had telephones, all on a party line from Inverness to Linwood through Perote. It did not last long.

CHURCHES

Sketch of the Methodist Church, Perote, Alabama

1839-1908

by Mrs. Alberta Laney Rumph

Original Mount Olivet.

Seventy years ago there stood, near what is now the home of Mr. John Brabham about four miles southeast of Perote on the Richardson's Bridge road, a log house which was used for a place of worship. As the building was not sufficiently large to accommodate the crowd that came for many miles and as there were no sawmills convenient, a bush arbor was added. From this the house became known as Bush Arbor Church. Later a more euphoneous name was bestowed. It was referred to as Mount Olivet.

We are indebted for our earliest information to our friends Mr. Jim McLaney of Union Springs and Mr. Miles Richardson of Perote. These reliable men resided with their parents in the neighborhood of this first Methodist Church established in this section of the country. They were boys together and we quote from their interesting accounts of early days.

Mr. McLaney says: "In the early days of that section known as Pike County (now Bullock) the citizens built a large log house to worship in. They also used it for a school house. This church was known as Bush Arbor and was standing there when my parents moved to that section in 1839. I attended school and often went to preaching there. Opposite the church, across the road, was a graveyard. Many people were buried there, one of whom was a local Methodist preacher named Holley. His wife, known as Mother Holley was a fine old lady whom everybody loved. She helped along all good meetings by shouting. The Holley's were cultured people and Mr. Holley was one of the best men who preached in the old church and at the Pike County meeting.

There were few roads through the country at that time and my father often put me behind the preacher on horseback and sent me to point out the way to another charge. I remember on one occasion Mr. Abram Miles read from a paper the appointments and when it was learned that Rev. Olin Capers had been assigned to that Circuit many of the members expressed their pleasure by cheering. Mr. Capers was a nephew of Bishop Capers and had few equals as a pulpit orator." This about the year 1849.

Mr. Richardson says: "My father, Stephen Richardson, was a class leader in this church of which both he and my mother were members. The good old Mr. Holley always wore a long gown when he preached, the first I ever saw. Among those who often preached that were not supplied by conference were Rev. Barker, father of Mrs. Jim Stuckey, one Adams about the year 1840, and J. Mellard or Marrard. The last mentioned was a superannuated minister who is said in early manhood to have preached the first sermon ever delivered in Montgomery, Alabama.

Some of the prominent members of this church were Bryant Lane and wife, and a family by the name of McLean, which consisted of eight members, five of whom were blind. They were deeply pious people, never missing a service if possible to be present. Mr. and Mrs. McCall, parents of Mrs. William Crossley, Mr. Abram Miles, with his son T. B. Miles, and his stepchildren, the Crossleys with their consecrated cousin Caroline Godfrey.

As it is impossible to tell who P. C. and P. E. were before Enon Circuit was formed in 1845, we give the earliest ministers of Ermin-

toes or Eufaula Districts to which this church belonged, this data being furnished by Dr. Mason:

Presiding Elders of the Irvinton (Eufaula) District 1835-1836, J. Boswell; 1837-1838 E. Hearne; 1839-1840 Green Malone; 1841, Noah Laney; 1842-1843, Thomas Lynch.

The name was changed to Eufaula that year. Presiding Elders of the Eufaula District 1844-1845, Thoas. Lynch; 1846-1847-1848, J. C. Carter; 1849, S. Amstrong.

In 1845 the Enon Circuit was formed. Enon Circuit, preacher in charge:

1844, James Peeler; 1845 S. Armstrong, T. M. Lynch; 1846, S. Armstrong, N. P. Scales; 1847, Samuel Armstrong, T. M. Lynch; 1848 John L. Saunders, J. L. Pierce; 1849, John L. Saunders, W. L. Kidd.

SECOND MT. OLIVET

First Church in Village.

The first Church in the village was completed in 1851, Frank Kennedy (or Canida) being the contractor. It was built on the spot where the residence of D. A. Hixon now stands. The lot for the church as well as for the cemetery was given by our good Presbyterian brother, Mr. Samuel Hixon, father of our Messrs. Sam and Dan Hixon. Soon after completion the church was dedicated. It was a great occasion for the people of the community, as few had witnessed such a ceremony. Many came from the surrounding towns and country. Rev. J. W. Crossley having been a member of the Bush Arbor or Mt. Olivet Church, and wishing to keep the old church in the minds of the people gave to this new one the same name, Mt. Olivet.

I quote from Mrs. Mollie Riley of Greenville, Alabama, whose father, William Johnson, did so much for our town in those days: "The church was dedicated by Bishop J. O. Andrew, father of Mrs. J. W. Rush. It was an occasion of quarterly meeting and the Bishop came in a closed carriage on Saturday in company with some other preachers whose names I do not remember. The Sunday School was organized soon after the church was dedicated. It was the first I ever attended.

Children walked to this school two and three miles. There was a little library in connection with it. The good Mr. Crossley was Superintendent of this school and the one in the present church for more than twenty years."

Dr. William Crossley of Banks, Alabama writes: "Bishop Andrew ordained several preachers at the time of dedication of the church, one of whom was Brother James Crossley. The circuits were very large at that time embracing eighteen or twenty appointments and requiring two preachers, an old man and a young one, to supply them. The church started under favorable circumstances financially and spiritually. The rich lands around us had been overlooked until about 1850 when wealthy men commenced bringing them up most of them building residences in the village. In three years time the community had grown wonderfully with as fine a school as any in the State with a hundred and fifty pupils in attendance which was a source of great pride. Education and religion went hand in hand. A minister was kept as principal of the school and resided in the town. Five other local preachers lived in our midst, all of them men of means and some of them wealthy. With such a force of resident preachers, two others supplied by Conference, and such laymembers as we had, few churches excelled or even equalled ours. The negroes too were carefully looked after. A Missionary was sent annually to see to their welfare. They visited the plantations, preached to them and catechised the children. John L. Saunders and James Pierce preached in the new church. James Pierce was a brother of the Bishop and like others of that gifted family, was a fine preacher. Saunders whose second initial was L. was called Long John as though it was his name on account of his great height but co-laborers and laymen were careful as to how they addressed him as he had a reputation for fighting as well as preaching."

From the diary of Martha Crossley who became Mrs. J. D. Rumph, Sr. we quote the following: "We were in Pike County, Precinct of Missoure, so called because of its resemblance of its soil to the rich lands of the Missouri River. When the new church was built the old church was turned over to the negroes. In 1867 there was an insurrection among them and it was said that they held their secret meetings in the old building. A party of young men came up from Brundidge and burned it to the ground—a sad ending for the once sacred edifice."

About the year 1852, Mr. William Johnson, postmaster applied

to the Post Office Department for a name for this growing little place. The Mexican War still fresh in the minds of the people and the name Perote was suggested. General Wiley, father of the prominent Troy family, who had been an officer in the war, strongly advocated the name comparing the beautiful location of the town with that of Mexico so from that time to the present it has been known as Perote Church. Prominent members' families were Baldwin, Miles, Aaron, Packer, Stuckey, Braswell.

Frank Peach and John Tullis, the last mentioned father-in-law of the late Rev. Frank Ellison, and grandfather of Robert R. Ellison, Alabama Conference.

Our church must have been changed from Enon to a different Circuit at sometime impossible to locate. There was at one time Enon and Chunnenugee Circuit, which included Barker's Church and Mt. Andrew in Barbour County. The names given by Dr. Mason do not correspond in time with those who served Perote. Between the year 1850-1857, Saunders and Kidd, Carter, Ardis and Hurt (who held a great revival about 1853 or 1854). J. F. R. Brandon, Druchler, and Butt, William Ellison, S. F. Pilley, nor J. B. Cottrell were ever our pastors. We are certain F. L. Densler and J. J. Cassidy were our pastors in 1859. O. B. Stanley in 1861, and Jesse Wood in 1862. J. W. Rush and J. W. Glenn preached at our church sometime. Presiding Elders, 1849, 1850, 1851, 1852 S. Armstrong; 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856 S. F. Pilley.

The present Church was built in 1857, Mr. John Adair, being the contractor and Noah Scafe, (a negro) owned by Mr. Adair, being the architect. This beautiful lot as well as those for the Baptist Church and school building were given by my father, C. D. Laney of Eufaula and Daniel McCall, of this place. The building was well constructed and commodious, its seating capacity being about five hundred. Mr. John Finlayson remembers some of the names of the building committee noticed before the books were destroyed. They were George Rodgers, Jesse Locke, John Adair Isaac Ardis and Daniel McCall.

The new church was dedicated in 1857, P. P. Neely officiating. No finer orator or more gifted man ever graced the pulpit of the Methodist Church. Mrs. E. W. Starke speaks of the dedication thus: "Dr. Neely's subject was "Heaven" and as he described its beauties he left the altar and walked up and down the aisles and poured such

a torrent of beautiful language, delivered in such a manner as I have never before nor since listened to."

Churches were not so numerous then as they are now under our present church extension system and people from many miles attended services at this place. On two occasions District Conference was held here, once during the pastorate of W. G. Turner, 1873-1877 and again in 1890 during the pastorate of J. W. Solomon, Bishop Duncan presiding.

Soon after the completion of the church a new bell was needed to correspond with the quality and price with the other furnishings. Mrs. Queen Gamble, now Mrs. Nimrod Long of Hurtsboro, took the lead in securing the needed money. Its sweet, clear tones ring out o'er hill and vale and remind us of her zeal and church interests."

(The person who succeeded in raising the most money for the bell was to have her name engraved on the bell and the name Queen Gamble is inscribed on it. It is still the property of the Methodist Church.)

But cruel war comes on, three companies going out from the village nearly depopulated it, and the Church suffered the loss of many valuable members. Miss Martha Crossley, standing on the steps of this sacred edifice, delivered to the Perote Guards the address, and gave the silken banner which oft inspired noble deeds. A copy of the address together with the flag are now in the keeping of the State. The name of C. W. Rumph, Sr. stands out prominently as an example of what a consecrated layman can accomplish. For nearly twenty years, he served the church as Sunday School Superintendent, leader of prayer meetings and as representative at Conferences. He gave most liberally of his means and his home was open to the preachers, not only his own but other denominations. Now I wish I might name many who have gone to their reward. Those who like Dr. William Walker, whom death has so recently claimed and whose influence in humanity and Church will never die, also those of the present who labor so earnestly, but this will be the duty of a future historian. We will watch with interest the career of Mr. Clarence Lowe, one of our converts who has recently been licensed to preach by the South Georgia Conference. Clarence is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Lowe of this place and grandson of the late J. W. Crossley.

We are endeavoring to keep abreast of the times—Epworth League, Missionary Societies, Adult and Juvenile, Loyal Temperance Legion and other organizations have prospered in late years. We take the different church and Missionary Advocates and observe Children's and Orphans' Day exercises. At the recent centennial celebration we enjoyed the Historical address of Hon. L. M. Moseley, of Union Springs. With Prof. D. D. King as organist, Miss Margaret Rumph leader, and his pupils and other children composing the choir, we listened with pleasure to their rendering of the standard hymns of our faith.

May God's richest blessings continue with the Perote Church."

Mrs. Alberta L. Rumph was a faithful Sunday School teacher. Other teachers were Mrs. C. D. Laney, Mrs. M. J. Rumph, Mrs. J. B. Murphy, Mrs. M. K. Johnson, Mrs. D. A. Hixon, Mrs. Addie Lowe to name a few.

Among those who have acted as Sunday School Superintendents were J. W. Crossley, C. W. Rumph, A. B. Laney, J. D. Rumph, III, J. S. Finlayson, Bates Cowart, Mrs. Alma Finlayson, Bill Brabham, B. H. High, Jr., Jane High, Mack Hixon. At present 1958, Jane High.

Some of the organists were Mrs. Imogene Walker Hannah, Mrs. Alma Peach Petty, Mrs. Abbie Peach Foster. She was organist from 1899 to 1901. Mrs. Bessie Hixon Rumph, Mrs. A. L. Rumph and Miss Winogene Hixon, Prof. D. D. King, Miss May Belle Rumph, John and Frances Rumph and Mrs. Jerry Capps is the present (1958) organist.

The church that was built in 1857 was built by Rev. J. W. Crossley, Mr. Norman Mathison and a colored man, Noah Scafe. It was put together with wooden and iron pegs and stood on a hill a short distance south of the business area. There was one large room with two front doors, two back doors. There were four large windows with blinds on each side. The pulpit was at the front of the church and a person entering the front door faced the congregation. Back of the pulpit was a semi-circle extending out on the porch. This had five or six long narrow windows with blinds. The porch extended across the front and there were two sets of steps. There were four square columns. The bell was in the middle of the porch near the edge. The ladies sat on the right side of the church and the men on the left. On the men's side were spittoons for the use of tobacco chewers. At the end of the benches next to the wall were dirty spots where they

had leaned their heads. Three handsome pulpit chairs were upholstered in wine colored velvet and the backs were elaborately carved. These with a lectern, two pedestal like stands with a pitcher of water were the only pieces of furniture on the chancel except a table which held a pitcher of water for the preacher who often became overheated or hoarse from shouting to the congregation. At one time a partition was built in the rear of the church and Sunday School rooms were made. Steps were built to the doors of these rooms. Often in hot weather classes were held on these steps. In front of the church long tables were built in the shade of trees to be used for Memorial Day dinners or Quarterly Conference dinners on the ground.

In 1937 fire destroyed this historic structure. There was not a ladder in town long enough to reach the top of the church. All furniture was saved including the hot stove that had a fire in it at the time of the fire. The windows and doors were saved. Another church was erected while S. F. Lowery, Sr. was pastor, 1939-1940. Mr. Lowery, Mr. G. C. Russell and Mr. Frank Dykes of Perote did the work. The building was ceiled with the cheapest grade of lumber with the hope that sheet rock would cover it. Interest in the church had waned and membership had decreased. No one seemed interested enough to make any improvements until Charles Wynn, pastor of the church in 1956-1958, asked for the money and got enough to finish the interior without going in debt. The walls are painted a lovely shade of blue and white venetian blinds hang at the windows. The pulpit furniture was re-finished and the wine-red upholstery looks beautiful against the blue walls.

At the present time services are held twice a month at a morning service. For several years it has been served by student pastors from Troy State Teachers College. It has been many years since a pastor's family has lived in the parsonage.

Sunday School is still held each week and a Woman's Society of Christian Service function. Annual revivals are conducted each summer, but attendance is small. The future for the Perote Methodist Church does not look very bright, however, the residents are of high moral character and hold fast to the Golden Rule.

"Although a Baptist Church was erected in 1857 and this denomination flourished for a while, its membership decreased to such an extent that services are no longer held. The Starks, Miles, Carrols,

Davis, Highs, and Iveys were members of the Baptist Church. Some of the Baptists joined the Methodist Church and their church was sold to C. W. Rumph, Jr., who used it for a storage house for cattle feed. The Ivey family drove to church in a closed carriage with silver trimmings, pulled by a pair of bays, negro coachman in black suit, white shirt, black tie and tall beaver hat sat on top. Mr. Ivey owned 100 slaves, failed in business, took the bankrupt law and put all of his property in his wife's name. She enjoyed speaking of my land etc. The daughters rode horseback, with side saddles, riding habits that almost touched the ground and tall hats, to town every day for the mail.

Behind the house now owned by Mrs. J. G. Main, Mr. Stamps, a Baptist preacher lived (about 1885-1886). His wife was an invalid. They owned a buggy but no horse and when she wanted to go any place he would pull her in the buggy.

Five miles north of Perote at the Scotland community is the Bethel Presbyterian Church built about 1835. The Dan and Sam Hixons, with their families, the James Harpers and Mose Johnsons joined the Scotch Presbyterians. Neither heat nor cold kept them from loading their families in wagons and driving to Bethel Church to preaching on the second Sunday in the month. Prominent members of this church were the McKays, McMillans, McSwains, McNeils, and McKinnons of Inverness, McGradys, McNairs, Cades, Camerons, Blues, Boyds, McGeans, Segrests, Pattersons, Mathersons, Bristows, and others. About 1883 or '84 Rev. Clagett held a series of meetings at Bethel Church. It lasted two or three weeks. As the members from Perote and some from Union Springs could not attend often, they camped in the large school building just south-east of the church. Booths made of quilts separated the families, made next to the wall on each side of the building. Meals were served on a long table in the middle of the building. They were cooked in the large fireplace at the east end. All enjoyed it. The people of the community still have Sunday school, missionary society, and preaching twice a month.

The lack of religious activity among the white inhabitants of Perote is the fact that the population has decreased so much and the young people have gone elsewhere to make their living, leaving behind those who cannot take active part in church work.

The negro population outnumbered that of the white and the

colored people regularly attend their Methodist church which is located on the south side of the business section or their Baptist church which was formally known as the back street, north & west of the business area. They come from miles around during revival time and can be heard singing and shouting. Not as much though as in former years.

A short distance south of the Methodist Church is Perote cemetery. Land for this cemetery was given by Samuel Hixon about 1851. No definite date is established, but one of the tombstones bears the inscription—Cadenhead, "Soldier of '76." Mrs. M. J. Rumph, who made and presented a flag to the Perote Guards, and Miss Fannie Lawson worked long and hard to beautify the cemetery. Mrs. Rumph would take her colored people there to cut grass and brush and white wash rocks outlining terraces, plant flowers. When they stopped to rest she would say, "Now, just do this while you rest." Mrs. Rumph liked to stay in the cemetery because it was so quiet and peaceful and people on the outside were living too fast. Her colored people built arches at the two entrances that were decorated for Memorial Day. At the end of the big walk was a pergola where a part of the exercises were given. From there they marched to the Methodist Church for the speaker's address. They planted wisteria, cape jasmine and bridal wreath in different parts of the cemetery; this made it look pretty in the spring.

Memorial Day in Perote was always a memorable occasion. On the 25th of April some of the older residents met at the cemetery and placed a sprig of cedar on each soldier's grave. On the 26th the children had wreaths of flowers made by women of the community from their yards. The children met at the Methodist Church and marched two by two to the cemetery, each carrying flowers and placed one on each soldier's grave. An iron fence circled the cemetery.

A little to the north-west of the Methodist church was the school house. This house was a wooden building about seventy feet long and thirty-three feet wide and was built in the years 1852 and 1853 by Mr. Thomas Morgan, a contractor of Eufaula, Alabama. About the year 1859 a room about twenty-five feet long and twenty feet wide was added on the south end; it was known as the music room.

A short time after this another addition was made on the north end, extending north about thirty-two and one-half feet, forming an

ell, thereby doubling the capacity of the original building. There was no partition except between the music room and the school room.

There were two brick chimneys on the west side of the original room and one on the west end and one on the south side of the ell. There was no ceiling except overhead. About the year 1869 the additions which had been made were torn down and removed. At this time all the chimneys were torn down and two new ones were built; one on the east and one on the west side.

A few years later after the additions had been torn down it was found necessary to have two and an addition which now stands (1902) was made on the south end of the original building running south about eighteen feet. The rostrum was built about 1860. About 1887 the walls were ceiled and blinds furnished to the windows. The seats first furnished the building were made of plank about fourteen inches wide, made like a box extending all around the walls and divided by a plank. The house was very nice and comfortable when it was first built, but it is very uncomfortable now in the winter. There are about twenty-five window glasses broken and the holes all stopped with pasteboard and planks. It has two small heaters in it but they are so small they do not do much good unless you are right at them.

The first school taught in the house was by Mr. Patton. The attendance was very good. Prof. Patton was succeeded by Prof. Sullens in 1855. The school had increased and Miss Martha Crossley (Mrs. J. D. Rumph, Sr.) was employed as assistant. In 1856 Prof. McSwain and his brother taught.

In 1857-1858 Rev. McMillan, a Presbyterian preacher was principal and was assisted by Miss Jennie Corban the first year and by Miss Eliza Brown the second year. During his time here a music department was added in charge of Miss Murrow and a piano was bought by the public for the use of the school. Rev. Robert Haynes, a local Methodist preacher was next principal assisted by Mr. F. T. Chase in 1859-1860.

In 1861 Mr. Chase joined the Confederate (he was from Massachusetts) Army and went with the Perote Guards to Pensacola. Mr. Haynes continued as principal for a while and he too joined the Army and went to Mobile with Capt. Thompson's Co. of Calvary. In 1864 Prof. Wright assisted by his wife and taught one year. In 1866 Prof.

F. T. Chase was elected principal and Prof. Chappel assistant. Others were: 1867, Prof. Threadgill; 1868, Prof. Thompson; 1869, Dr. Law; 1870, Prof. Crowell; 1871, Prof. McDonald; 1873-4, Prof. LaMotte; 1875, Col. E. W. Starke; 1876-77, Prof. Stott; 1879-80, Capt. G. W. Dawson; 1881, Prof. Crowell; 1882-83, Capt. G. W. Dawson; 1885, Prof. Searcy; 1886, Prof. Jones; 1887, Prof. Holliway; 1888, Prof. Sam Boykin, assisted by his sister Miss Alice and his Brother J. T.; 1889, Prof. J. B. Murphy; 1892, Prof. Turner; 1893-94, Prof. Kendrick; 1895, Prof. D. Y. Thomas; 1896-98, Prof. Holt Andrews; 1899-1900, Prof. Jasper Riley; 1901, Miss Madge Dawson; 1902, Prof. George; 1903-05, S. W. Hixon; fall of 1905, Prof. C. A. Owen, assisted by Miss Jennie Mae DeLoach; 1906-07, Prof. and Mrs. Coggin; 1909-10, Prof. Matthews and Miss Frances Goree; 1911, Prof. Carl Reeves; 1913-1945, Prof. S. W. Hixon (retired); 1946-47, Mrs. Lois Hixon Main and Mrs. B. P. Hixon; 1948, school transferred to Inverness, Alabama.

Information on the school was from Dan A. Hixon to 1902. Since then it had folding doors put in the big class room and two rooms added to the south room on the west forming an ell and one on the north end forming an ell making six class rooms. After the school was transferred to Inverness, three of the rooms were torn down and the lumber used to enlarge the negro school.

To the west of the Negro Baptist Church is their school and they have a good school. There is a dormitory for teachers to live and students who live too far to walk or be transferred by bus. They have the twelve grades and teach every thing that is taught in the white schools.

Cotton has always been the principal money crop and before the cotton gin was invented the cotton had to be picked from the seed by hand.

"During the Civil War all of the cloth had to be woven at home. All the plantations had their spinning wheels. The women made dyes of roots, leaves and bark of trees. The indigo bush grew well in the county. They made hats of soaked shucks. There was a shortage of food during the war, "ground peas" were raised by all planters, sugar cane and even watermelons were made into syrup and sugar. Meal bran and okra seed were used as a substitute for coffee, and ashes of red corn cobs were used for soda." Taken from Life in Bullock County during the war by Lillian Hixon and Eleanor Grant.

The cotton gin in the 1880's was quite different from the present day ones. Then cotton was carried to the gin in wagons, unloaded in cotton baskets and emptied into a cotton press. There was a long lever with a piece of plank nailed on the end and a mule hitched to it. A driver sat on the end and drove the mule round and round. It was a lot of fun to ride around with the driver.

Owners of large plantations kept slaves to tend their crops. They raised cotton, corn, sugar cane, vegetables, chickens, hogs, cows and fruits of many kinds.

The women made preserves, jellies and canned fruits and vegetables from cultivated fruit and wild plums, blackberries and huckleberries that grew profusely.

"At one time sugar cane was grown on each plantation and a visit to the cane mill was a lot of fun. A mule was hitched to a lever that was attached to two rollers which crushed the stalks of cane. The mule plodded round in a circle around the mill, stalks of cane were hand fed between the rollers where the juice was crushed out. The juice trickled down a wooden trough into a barrel covered with burlap through which the juice was strained. The juice was carried in containers and poured in iron syrup kettles or copper vats. A fire was built in a furnace underneath and juice boiled until it was the consistency of syrup. In the kettle they raked the fire out and dipped the syrup out. In the vats they drained the syrup out as it cooked to the right consistency. During the process of cooking the foam was removed from the top of the boiling juice with a skimmer that was shovel like with a long handle. This foam was put in a barrel and allowed to ferment for beer. Visits to the cane mill served as social occasion for young and old.

Land was unsuited to the extensive raising of sugar cane and disease (smut) attacked the crop. Kyana and P O J were recommended as substitutes but they failed to measure up to the old fashioned red, green and ribbon cane in quality of syrup they produced. Only a few patches can now be seen on the farms and the cane mill is almost extinct. Very little syrup ever sold commercially but was kept in homes for family use. Sorghum was raised for cattle and syrup, but the syrup was poor.

Early settlers failed to see the value of timber-land and land was

cleared for farming. Following World War I and more especially from 1930 to the present time timber has been much indemand. Many people have prospered through the sale of timber. After the death of Mr. C. W. Rumph, Sr., Mrs. Rumph let a large tract of land be cupped for turpentine. This killed all of those trees.

Government control has discouraged the raising of cotton, corn and peanuts and many of the fields have been converted into pastures. Hereford and Jersey cattle are most suited to this area. Hereford ranks highest in preference because of demand for beef cattle. Occasionally milk and butter were carried to Union Springs to be sold but dairying was never carried on extensively.

Pecans have been a source of small income to some inhabitants of Perote, but unfavorable weather conditions during the past few years have hurt the production and only enough for home use were grown.

Other Crops

In the 1800's and 1900's wild game was abundant in the sage or sedge fields. It was not uncommon to bag 15 or 20 birds in half a days trip before the game law limited this quota. In the early day wild turkeys were found in the swamps. A few years ago the Wild Life Conservation turned loose some wild turkeys around that have multiplied rapidly but they are not very wild. They come to houses around and eat with the chickens. The quail they put out just disappeared.

Pea River, Conecuh and Sandy Creek yielded trout, jack and catfish but they have been seined, poisoned and beavers have changed the course of the river so that fishing there is not much good. Nearly all the farmers have ponds stocked with bream and bass and most of the fishing is done in the ponds.

Dr. Rumph's sister, Mary Ann, who married Mr. William Wannamaker came with him from South Carolina to Alabama and settled west of Pea River in Pike County (now Bullock). Mr. Wannamaker only lived a short time. They carried his body back to South Carolina for burial.

Mrs. Wannamaker married, second Mr. George Rodgers. Their house was built like the one Dr. Rumph bought in Perote. The front porch the width of the hall with two columns.

Mr. C. W. Rumph, Sr.'s house was very much like the Carroll house except it has two large rooms on each side of a wide hall. It had an ell extending west from the north-west room with a narrow hall between. The porch extends all across the front with four columns. It has a hip roof. He built a two room house a short distance south of this house that was called the "Preacher's house." Later he had it joined to the big house forming an ell on the south. In after years he moved a one room house from the country to the park, to the south, used as the boys room. This was after Dr. Rumph's death and his wife went to live with them.

Mr. Malachi Ivey's house was built on this same plan. Between his house and the highway were woods and for a good many years gypsies camped there for a week or two. The men trading mules and horses and the women going from house to house to sell laces and fancy work and wanting to tell "your good fortune."

For several years two foreigners came through with one or two trained bears that the children always enjoyed very much.

Most of the log houses around here had one large living room, two smaller rooms across the back and a porch and shed rooms on the front or two large rooms with a wide open hall between. In the early days the kitchens were in the back yard. Some with a platform connecting it with the other part of the house. Several of these log houses were remodeled and covered with weather boarding. There are two here now.

Mr. Jesse Locke had the house known as the Laney house, now owned by Mrs. J. G. Main, built by Noah Scafe, a negro architect. He built several houses around here and the Methodist Church that was burned.

The first store on the west side of the highway going south belonged to Mr. Jesse Locke (it was probably the one built by Mr. Fulford). He was one of the early merchants here. The post office was in it and his daughter, Miss Willie Locke, was postmistress. Next was Dr. William Walker's and Dr. Olin Zeigler's drug store. It had a little back room and there was a skeleton hanging back of the door that the children were interested in. Some were scared of it. This store was sold to Mr. B. G. High who sold general merchandise there for a number of years. After his death his son, Ben Hall, ran it for a while.

It was vacant several years, then sold to a negro who built him a house of the lumber.

The next store belonged to Drs. Walker and Zeigler and they sold general merchandise. The post office was there and Mr. Caleb Cox, from Star Hill in Barbour County, Alabama was the postmaster.

S. D. and D. A. Hixon bought this store in 1892 and sold general merchandise for a long time. They dissolved partnership while both were living, and it could be done together. They owned two stores and each took half of the stock of goods and a store. A Mr. Daniels sold jewelry in one corner of it but Perote could not support a jewelry store and he was not there very long.

Mr. John H. Peach kept a grocery store next, it was mostly for furnishing the hands on his plantations. Don't think he tried to sell much. He died in 1905 and his wife and daughter moved to Clayton, Alabama. Jim Hixon sold groceries there for a number of years.

Mr. Bill Miles shoe shop was next.

D. A. Hixon and Mr. Tasso Culver were in business in the next store and after they dissolved partnership it was C. W. Rumph and D. A. Hixon. They were together till 1891. Mr. Rumph moved across the street to the Lodge building, where he did business until his death in 1898.

On the east side of the highway 29, on the north east corner of the cross roads going south stood the Masonic Lodge. It was a two story building. Mr. James M. High sold general merchandise on the first floor and the Masons held their meetings on the second. Mr. John Sellers of Montgomery bought him out. When he came to take possession he found that it had burned the night before. Mr. C. W. Rumph or Mr. Jeff Fryer bought the lot and rebuilt it. Mr. Fryer sold goods there till about 1892 before moving to Clayton, Alabama. Mr. Rumph bought it and sold goods there from 1892-1898.

After the death of Mr. Rumph, Mr. A. B. Laney rented the store and kept store and was postmaster for a number of years. In 1907 it burned and was never rebuilt there.

Mr. Bob McDowell erected a two story building farther south and

it is thought that the Masons had the second story added for their meetings. Mr. McDowell sold the store to S. D. and D. A. Hixon. The east side of the highway burned twice after I could remember. Mr. McDowell owned one next to the Lodge before the first fire and Mr. Eugene Pitts another. This fire was in the 1880's. The next in 1907.

The Ladies Memorial Association was organized April 27, 1874 and on May 21, 1874 the Constitution was presented. It had the distinction of being the second one in the south, Columbus, Georgia being the first. They had 43 charter members. The 26th of April, Memorial Day in Perote has always been almost like a homecoming. Then is when we have our new clothes. A prominent speaker gave an address and some child recited a suitable poem for the occasion and appropriate songs were sung. After these dinner was served under the trees in front of the Methodist Church.

From the Minutes of the Ladies Memorial Association.

“Perote, Ala.
April 27th, 1874

At the call of a member of the ladies of Perote the citizens of the town and vicinity assembled on the morning of this day at the Perote Cemetery and after decorating the graves of the Confederate Soldiers with flowers they repaired to the Methodist Church, Rev. W. S. Turner read the 70th Psalm, beginning at the 10th verse, offered prayer at the Throne of Grace.

Capt. G. W. Dawson was then introduced to the audience as the orator of the occasion and delivered an appropriate, beautiful and touching address.

Rev. W. S. Turner gave notice that as soon as the Memorial Association shall be organized he will move that a copy of the excellent address be solicited for the use of the Association.

Rev. Mr. Turner stated that the meeting had been called not only for the purpose of decorating the soldiers graves and hearing the address of Capt. Dawson but also to organize a Memorial Association in order to perpetuate the beautiful custom of commemorating the services of our Confederate dead by putting flowers on their graves, and having a suitable address delivered annually on the 26th of April.

Mr. Turner then moved that Mrs. Eliza Laney act as president and Miss Lula Bryan serve as secretary Protem. The motion was adopted.

Mr. Turner then read a list of officers, managers and committee which had been prepared by a number of gentlemen and ladies.

On motion of Dr. W. A. Walker the list as a whole was adopted as follows:

Officers

Mrs. Eliza Laney	-----	President
Mrs. Jesse Locke	-----	Vice President
Mrs. James Harp	-----	Vice President
Mrs. William S. Turner	-----	Vice President
Mrs. William A. Walker	-----	Vice President
Mrs. Abbie Rumph	-----	Corresponding Secretary
Miss Lula Bryan	-----	Recording Secretary
Mrs. W. J. Lewis	-----	Treasurer
Mr. Charlie Laney	-----	Historian

Board of Managers:

Mrs. Charles B. LaHatte

Mrs. George W. Dawson

Mrs. Ezra Baxter (Catherine Graham Hixon)

Mrs. J. D. Rumph, Sr., Mrs. S. B. Sullens, Mrs. J. B. Fryer, Miss Sallie Patterson, Mrs. J. C. DuBose, Mrs. J. W. Crossley, Mrs. J. O. Zeigler, Mrs. J. McCall, Mrs. M. Ivey, Mrs. T. B. Miles, Mrs. I. M. Johnson, Mrs. J. Adair, Mrs. J. H. Peach, Miss Sallie Tinsley, Mrs. J. P. Brooks, Mrs. D. A. Hixon.

Advisory Committee of Gentlemen:

Dr. J. D. Rumph, Sr., Col. Jesse Locke, Capt. G. W. Dawson, Mr. James Harp, Dr. W. A. Walker, Dr. W. D. Bryan, Dr. J. O. Zeigler, Mr. Malachi Ivey, Col. E. W. Starke, Mr. Ezra Baxter, Prof. C. B. LaHatte, Mr. T. B. Miles, Mr. S. L. Latham, Mr. J. B. Fryer, Mr. I. M. Johnson, Mr. J. R. Adair, Dr. W. R. Moye.

On motion of Rev. W. S. Turner the Association then adjourned to meet at such a time as the President may appoint.

Lula Bryan, Sec'y."

From the minutes of the Ladies Memorial Association:

"The History of the Perote Guards Flag."

Union Springs Herald Thursday, May 5, 1927.

One of the most interesting facts concerning the history of Perote and one which should inspire within every one of you, a patriotic pride, was the return of the Perote Flag. This fact alone was the means bringing about the return of all Southern battle flags captured by the Northern Forces during the War of the Rebellion.

The Perote Flag was made by Miss Martha Crossley who later became Mrs. James D. Rumph, and Mrs. Long of Hurtsboro, and other interested friends. Miss Crossley was noted throughout the entire community for her exquisite work and painting. So it was she who designed, and decorated and presented the flag, with the assistance named.

The flag was made at a time when peace abounded throughout the borders of our land, and many feared that it was that dread calm that precedes the terrible storm. "In time of peace prepare for war," was the sound maxim upon which the Alabama Legislature wished to encourage volunteer organizations and so the ladies of Alabama wished to encourage them. It was made at a time when a new firm had been set up, the Southern Confederacy, established as firm a foundation as stable as the Rock of Ages.

The flag was presented to the Perote Guards September 1860, by the ladies of Perote. The address preceding the presentation of the flag was made by Miss Crossley on the steps of this church. She said in brief:

Take this flag and with it accept the best wishes of the donor for the success of the Company. We consign this flag to your care with the full faith that you will never use it for any inglorious purpose, that you will follow it wherever duty or honor leads and that you will never allow it to succumb to mortal foe until the last gallant Guard be stricken to the dust and can no longer bear it aloft.

That flag may have a part in the facture of coming events, near the flashing of the guns, in the midst of the strife, if so, let it be found floating erect, triumphant over the brave hearts and strong arms that

so nobly defended it, covered all over with glory, and emblazoned in letters of gold, with the fulfillment of the motto, "Justice and protection for each new partner or a new firm."

The Perote Guards were organized at Perote, Bullock (then Pike) County, in 1859 and composed mostly of students of the Perote Institute.

At Barancas Barracks, near Fort Barancas, Florida, February 1861, the First Alabama Regiment was organized. The companies composing the regiment were the Eufaula Rifles, Eufaula Pioneers, the Perote Guards with George W. Dawson as Captain, Clayton Guards, Guards of the Sunny South, Wilcox True Blues, Tallapoosa Rifles, Rough and Ready Pionners, and Red Eagles.

Captain Dawson in a speech made at the first Memorial Exercises ever held at Perote said:

"You have come today to honor the memory of the men who represent a soldiery as brave as any that England's "Iron Duke" ever led upon the field of Waterloo, as any that followed the star of Napoleon Bonaparte, as any that marched with Washington in the dark days of '76.

Among Alabama's thousands, none were so prompt to respond to her call, none more willing, none sooner in the field than the company that carried your flag. Clad in a uniform made by the ladies of Perote, carrying the flag they received from you at the hands of Alabama's noblest daughters, they marched with the blessings given amid tears and smiles bearing with them the idols of many of your hearts."

It is interesting to note just here that the Second Memorial Association was organized at Perote, the first having been organized at Columbus, Georgia."

"During twelve months a part of the First Alabama Regiment was contending with the Northern Forces at Fort Pickens. At the end of the year the companies were reorganized and the Perote Guards became Company G, with M. B. Locke as Captain. After a brief furlough of 30 days the Companies assembled again to help in dismounting the batteries, which portended the evacuation of Fort Barancas. On March 5th the regiment left for Memphis, Tenn., from which it was transfer-

red by boat to Island No. 10. Island No. 10 was located near the corner of Tenn., Kentucky, and Missouri. Batteries were at once set up. Next day March 15, the enemy's fleet appeared and began the attack. A battle took place which meant the loss of many of the boys belonging to various companies in Alabama. (D. A. Hixon was one of the soldiers captured and sent as a prisoner to Ship Island) Among the flags captured was the Perote flag. The flag carried by the Perote Guards was taken by the 18th Wisconsin Infantry called "The Norwegians."

The Perote Guards, forming a part of the Pensacola Campaign 1861, Island No. 10, 1862, Port Hudson 1862-63, Meridian, Mobile and Georgia 1863-1864, Tennessee Campaign and the Campaign in the Carolinas.

There were 197 men on the muster roll of the Perote Guards, not one of them ever deserted, put a substitute in his place or attempted to evade the Confederate service. All except a few who lived to return home were buried on the battlefields and in the Confederate Cemeteries of the North."

Mr. Christian W. Rumph fought in the Battle of Murphreesboro, Tennessee, Mr. Lawrence Hixon was killed and buried at Bell's Landing, Tennessee. (Bible record) Mr. Malcolm Finlayson was mortally wounded and died here and is buried in Perote. Dr. McLester was killed in action.

Perote Homecoming, June 8, 1926, was the biggest day Perote has had in my recollection. Invitations were sent to all persons who had lived in Perote and were still living, whose addresses we could get. They came from far and near, some as far away as Texas.

(Union Springs Herald). "Those of sturdy Scottish Clans and their descendants, reveled in the associations of the past, that were hallowed by the most sacred ties of home, heart and sentiment for this was no ordinary barbeque, but a reunion of the heart and an occasion when handclasp lost all formality and shone forth as a symbol of love and sincerity.

One cannot call the assemblage of 500 persons a cross section of America, rather it was easily a section of the best and most typical life, in which the blue eyed Saxon blood showed what could be done in its racial purity when allowed to run its own course.

There were the Brabhams, the Finlaysons, Hixons, Rodgers, Tatum, Youngbloods, Lees, McMillans, Copes, Camerons, Cades, Laney, Peaches, Hightowers, Sellers, Crossleys, Fosters, Davises, Jenkins, Rumphs, Feagins, Faulks, Popes, Blues, Mains, Jones, Wests, Culvers, Harrisons, Engrams, and others. A full half thousand rallied together in honor of the homefires and that which has made America great.

An orchestra dispensed music of 1926, no kilties, nor even a Scotch air, but the trio composed of A. B. Laney and his sisters, Mesdames J. G. Lundy and J. B. Murphy, showed what home singing can do and they earned an encore as easily as an opera star.

From among the many professional men sent out by Perote, John H. Peach of Sheffield, past president of the Alabama Bar Association, delivered a cultured address to which doubtless a full hundred of his lineage listened including the following eight brothers and sisters, all graduates from an Alabama College: George H. Peach, Dr. Henry E. E. Peach, both of Clayton, Mrs. R. L. Petty, Clayton, Mrs. R. A. Foster, Brantley, Mrs. Arthur H. Feagin, Union Springs, Mrs. Crawford Hightower, Montgomery, Miss Susie Peach, Clayton, Mrs. Clarence West, Louisville, Alabama. It is not known that this record can be equalled in Alabama or elsewhere, although it appears that this is Perote's way of doing things.

Among those taking part in the extensive program covering two hours in the forenoon and three in the afternoon, may be mentioned Mrs. Winton Blount, Mrs. C. M. Franklin, and Mrs. A. W. Oliver of Union Springs, Prof. S. W. Hixon, principal of the Perote School, delivered the address of welcome to which Mrs. E. A. Dannelly of Ozark responded, both addresses being marked by an earnest, direct appeal brought applause.

James W. Culver came from Texas to deliver a telling address, pregnant with the spirit of the home and other short addresses were by Mesdames R. W. West, Mrs. J. B. Granberry, and Mr. Clarence Owens, a piano solo was by Mrs. Minnie McLester Hope. The oration by W. R. Rodgers, aged 78 years was the same as delivered on the occasion of his graduation from the Perote Academy 50 years before. Mr. Rodgers had all the qualifications of an orator, and showed all the fire and spirit of one half his age as he delivered a passionate patriotic appeal.

The home-coming was originally sponsored by the Parent Teacher

Association, through the teachers Misses Nella Carroll, Effel Rumph, Lettie Cowart, Mildred Turnipseed, Elizabeth Kirkland with Prof. Hixon in charge. The project soon met with enthusiasm that hundreds instead of dozens came. The Department of Archives and History was represented by Miss Frances Hails, Miss Lois Yelverton, and Leon Meirovitch. Miss Hails in a brief address asked for historical material and was given some choice records and mementoes of the past."

(Taken from the Union Springs Herald)

"The Ladies of Perote made fatigue suits for the Perote Guards and presented them to the company on their leaving for Ft. Barancas, Florida."

The 28th of May, Emancipation Day was a big day for the negroes in Perote. They hired a band to come from a distance, met at the Baptist Church on the north side of town and marched through town to the Methodist Church where they had a picnic in the woods back of the church. "Uncle Jim McWilson," an old colored man led the procession and he really felt his importance.

There are several people I will write about in connection with this history. I cannot mention all.

Rev. James Mellard was never a resident of Perote but was an uncle of Dr. James D. Rumph and to me a very interesting character. He preached to the Indians near Perote and on one occasion Dr. Rumph accompanied him. Rev. Mellard told him they would have to eat with them. They were having fish, not dressed, wrapped in corn shucks and roasted in hot coals. Dr. Rumph said he could not eat any but his uncle said he would have to or make the Indians mad. He ate some and said they were the best he had ever eaten.

A Forgotten Hero of the Cross

By F. S. Moseley

President of Alabama Conference Historical Society

In a very rundown condition in a country graveyard no longer used by the whites, near Three Notch, in Bullock County, Alabama, is a stone saying: Sacred to the Memory of Rev. James H. Mellard, who departed this life Nov. 17, 1855, aged 77 years, 3 months and 7 days;

having been a preacher of the gospel in connection with the Methodist Church for fifty-six years." Few visit the grave and fewer still know that he was one of the founders of our church in Alabama. He first joined the South Carolina Conference in 1801 and served in North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia, being one of the first two missionaries (1808) to the negroes ever sent out by the Methodist. He located in 1810 and in 1812 we find him in Autauga County as a local preacher.

He joined the Mississippi Conference in 1827 and was appointed to the Alabama Circuit, up and down the Alabama River. In 1828 he became Presiding Elder of the Alabama District and served four years. He preached August 26, 1821 in Montgomery Court House and is said to have organized the First Methodist Church in Montgomery September 25, 1829. He was one of the trustees of the LaGrange (Methodist) College in the state.

He was one of the four original Presiding Elders in 1832 when the Alabama Conference was organized, and was on the Chattahoochee District. In 1833 he located at the advanced age of fifty-five, but continued to labor as a local preacher for twenty-two years. He settled near Aberfoil and preached at Three Notch. Mr. J. M. Glenn says at his request he was buried in Three Notch as near his church as he could be.

Mrs. Martha Crossley Rumph did much for Perote. We are indebted to her for most of the early history. So much has been written about her that I will not write much more.

"Her life was a creed of Love. Her quiet smile, her tact of divining what every one felt, and every one wanted, showed how completely grown out of self, and had learned to think of others. At one time, she quieted the soul with sweet words, at another, she smoothed an invalids weary pillow, and at another she soothed a sobbing child; none but she saw these things; none but a loving heart could see them! Love - Love to God." Miss Imogene Walker. She was noted for her fine needlework and painting. She spent much of her time at the cemetery doing what she could to beautify it. She built terraces, planted flowers, had arches made at the entrances, these were decorated the day before Memorial Day. She said that she liked to stay there because it was so quiet and peaceful and people on the outside were living too fast.

Miss Fannie Lawson was quite a different character. She hadn't the education that Mrs. Rumph had but spent much of her time at the cemetery. After the death of her sister and after her two children left home to find a job, she was left alone.

She lived on the back street that ran parallel with the highway, in a house that had a large living room with a large fireplace, a long narrow bedroom on the south end and a long narrow room on the east for a dining room and a kitchen. There was a window in the bed room, three in the living room and none in the kitchen. They had a one room cottage in the yard for a guest room.

There were 8 or 9 places she felt at home and did not spend much time at her home. When she did she had some child with her. When our fathers and mothers wanted to leave home for a few days she would come and keep house. She was always there when anyone was sick and helped look after them.

The young people never lacked for a place to have a party or a candy-pulling. Each girl carried a pound of sugar to make the candy. She had no stove but cooked it in two iron pots in the fireplace.

Several weeks before Memorial Day she had the school children to work at the cemetery every Saturday. By the 26th of April it was clean and all the rocks on the terraces were whitewashed. I remember one year that soldiers came from a distance and fired a salute at the cemetery and after a short program went to the Methodist Church for the speakers address.

Miss Fannie spun thread with my grandmother's spinning wheel and knitted gloves for most of the girls in Perote.

Mrs. C. W. Rumph, Sr., and Mr. D. A. Hixon were public spirited men and did what they could for the good of the community. Neither family ever knew when they would have company for dinner because they closed their stores for dinner and they never left anyone there without inviting them to dinner and most of the time they came. Both were religious and did what they could for the churches. They entertained the preachers of whatever denomination that came through town. Anybody needing a place to spend the night were never turned away. They fed any beggar who came around. One Sunday, C. W. Jr. was standing on the front porch when they were coming from church without

company, he jumped up and down and said, "three coconut custards and no company for dinner."

Mr. Rumph was one of the Perote Guards and fought through the entire war. D. A. Hixon was 16 the last year of the war and weighed 100 pounds when he joined the Army. He was taken prisoner at Island No. 10 and sent as a prisoner to Ship Island, near Mobile. He was with the Army at Pollard, Alabama. He was discharged at Vicksburg, Mississippi.

My mother, Mrs. D. A. Hixon was a woman who believed in keeping the Sabbath as near as she could. Saturday nights we put toys away, no using the scissors were allowed on Sunday, and no noisy games. Dinner was put on to cook when breakfast was so that the cook could go to Sunday School and church if she wanted to and not come back till next morning. We went to Sunday School and remained for preaching when there was any. If there was anything doing at the church in the afternoon we went to that and back at night when there were services. After dinner we studied the Catechism and listened to her read the stories in the Christian Observer. If there were no services in the afternoon we sang religious songs. No songs that had religious words to secular tunes. My mother did not like anything that sounded sacrilegious. She read stories of the Bible to us.

She did not allow us to waste anything. We had to eat what we took on our plate. She said it was better to take small servings and take more if we wanted it. Nothing that could be eaten by hogs and chickens was thrown away. When I was young she had an ash hopper where she ran lye for making soap and lye hominy. It was a barrel filled with hardwood ashes and put on a stand that slanted. The day before she was to use it she poured water in the barrel and kept the ashes wet and it dripped through into a container. She made it in a large iron wash pot. She kept a container to put all meat skins and extra fat in the "soap grease" bucket. She built a fire under the pot and put the grease in the bottom and poured lye on it and dissolved it, then she poured water and lye in and cooked it until there was a pot full of lye soap. She kept it in a container and dipped it out with a gourd dipper.

There is another character I would like to mention, Mattie Haslam. In her young days she was very popular and lived in a house back of the Laney house. It had two large rooms with a stack chimney between.

A porch extending across the front but the back porch had a room on each end with the dining room and kitchen joining the east room forming an ell. The roof was gable. The house was in a pasture but it had a yard fence around it and a garden fence. She was called the "Pasture Girl." We were neighbors and played together nearly every day. When she grew up she fell in love with a young man and they were to marry but he jilted her. About that time she had a fall but was not seriously hurt. From that time she complained as long as she lived. She wanted attention and someone to wait on her. One year she said that her tongue was paralyzed and wrote and made signs for a whole year.

In winter she sat by the fire most of the time with her head tied up in rags with an old black felt hat on top of them. She had a sharp nose that almost met her chin when she had her false teeth out. She wore long dresses, high top shoes, black stockings and newspapers tied over her shoes. She walked with a stick and really looked like a witch.

The children enjoyed going to see her because she was such a good story teller and told them such marvelous tales. She made a lot of pretty things. She finally married a Mr. Bell, an unknown correspondent from Tampa, Florida. He died and she learned that he had a living wife that he had never been divorced from.

My brother Charlie was an unusual character. When he was quite small, during the summer when he wanted to go to his grandmother's, he would wear some of his daddy's shoes. Said the ground was too hot. He could ask more questions than any body I have ever known. His nose had a hard time. Once his sister, Juliet, shut the gate on it at grandmother's, then another time he was playing ball and the ball hit him on the nose and broke it. Once there was a circus coming to Union Springs and he wanted to go but could not find any one going except a young man who was going to take a young lady. He finally got up courage enough to ask to go with them and they let him put a little chair in the foot of the buggy and go. They thoroughly enjoyed the funny things that he said. They said they enjoyed it much more than they would if he hadn't been along.

When the men began planning a fishing trip he would pack his little trunk to be ready to go with them if they would let him. When they would tell him to wait till next time he would always say, "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." He usually got to go each time.

He tried to make himself so useful that they did not mind having him along. He and his sister would run races and he would make it a point to come out last and he would say, "I beat. The Bible says the first shall be last and the last shall be first."

He learned to hemstitch and said he thought he would make his living hemstitching handkerchiefs, then he learned to make tatting and he decided to do that instead.

He was a splendid magician but never used that for anything except occasionally he would give a show for a school to make some money. He invented a slide rule that was given to Auburn College in his memory after his death. The first electric clock they had for the college he made. He made the works from a sheet of brass, and the front was a piece of plate glass so you could see the works. He belonged to several honor societies, the National Geograph Society and the Royal Society of England. He was at the head of the Mechanical Engineering Department at Auburn.

Some of his hobbies were fishing and taking pictures of old negro men and women and circus people. He would go to the Barnum and Bailey Circus and the managers would let him go in the tents and take pictures.

From Auburn paper January 1954. Alumni Meeting

"Charles Robert Hixon, Mechanical Engineering, Perote, Alabama died in Auburn on January 1, 1954. Hixon continued his studies after graduation and received a Master of Science degree in mechanical engineering in 1908 from Auburn. He later did some special work at the University of Wisconsin. For forty-six years he was professor of engineering at his Alma Mater. He invented a training device for classroom teaching of the operation of the slide rule. He designed a clock and bell system for operation of classes at Auburn. He held a license as solo airplane pilot. He was honorary Chairman of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a member of the American Society of Promotion of Engineering Education and a member of the Royal Society of Art of London, England. He was quite active in other civic, fraternal and alumni affairs.

Mrs. Mary Lowe Johnson, sister of Mrs. M. J. Rumph and Mrs. C. D. Laney, who married Mr. Lowe, had three sons, John, Bill and

George. Mrs. George was a mute. He was a very close observer and enjoyed mimicing people. He was sent to a deaf and dumb school when he was a little boy. He was always trying to invent something. He made his false teeth from sweet gum wood, the only kind he ever had. He worked on a cotton chopper for several years but never made one that was a success.

When I was a child there were two colored people who lived here who were born in Africa.. "Granny" and "Uncle Billy" Boykin. "Granny" lived on our place with a family of colored people several years. I never knew why she lived with them because I don't think that they were her kin. She was born with six toes on one foot and the one next to the big toe was cut off leaving a wide space between the big toe and the next so she didn't wear shoes. She always wore a string of blue beads around her neck and when you asked her age, she said a little older than those beads. She came to our house often and my mother always gave her something to eat.

Uncle Billie lived on Mr. Christian Rumph's place and Mr. Rumph gave him an acre of land with a one room log cabin on it so he staked off the acre. There was a larger house near by and when it became vacant he moved his stakes and put them around it and moved in it. He was almost a dwarf and not very bright. He had some money buried in the corner of an old rail fence and he either forgot where he put it or someone watched where he put it and got it. He fell in love with a good looking young negro girl and asked her to marry him. She thought he was joking and said she would but of course she couldn't.

Old Uncle Pompey Kindred was an interesting old colored man who said he was sold three times during slavery and was 110 years old before 1929. I sold general merchandise after my father's death from 1922 to 1929 and he came to the store right often. He always carried a big osnaberg cotton sack around his neck that almost touched the ground to put what people gave him in. When he came to the store I always gave him tobacco and a few other things. One day he came in and wanted to know if I would help him if he were to get married. I told him no and advised him not to marry at his age.

In 1909 Perote had a telephone, party line, and I think it was from Inverness to Linwood through Perote and Josie. We had about all the combinations of long and short rings that you could combine. Nearly

every family in the country had one and whenever the telephone rang nearly all that could would listen in.

We have another line now from Union Springs that has just been put in (1958). It is a party line with five on the line but when your phone rings it is for you.

In 1890 Mr. Henry White moved here from Barbour County to the old McCall place. It is on the left of the highway about 2½ miles below town. Mr. "Dred" Day, who married Miss Sallie Tinsley, lived there when I first remember. Mr. Day died there and I do not remember where she went. Mrs. Day was a sister of Mrs. W. T. "Dock" Hightower. The Days had no children.

That house was made of logs and had two large rooms with a wide open hall between. The front porch extended the length of the front. There were stairs from the front porch on the north side of the hall. There was one large room upstairs. There was a shed room back of the large room on the north and two rooms forming an ell on the south. A porch between the ells and a gable roof.

The Lows and Mrs. Isaac Johnson lived next in a log house. Mr. J. S. Finlayson bought the place, tore the house down and built a four room frame house. It has two large rooms with a hall between and two rooms forming an ell on the north side.

A Mr. Kirkland came from South Carolina and settled three miles below Perote on the left side of the highway and built a log house. It is one of the very few that is still standing as I suppose it was originally built. I was born there but we moved to town when I was ten months old. As well as I can remember this house has two large rooms with a stack chimney between and two rooms across the back and I think it has an upstairs.

A list of the men who served from Perote in World War I: Alton L. Foreman, Henry S. Hardin, Benjamin Petty Hixon, Oscar L. Hooks, Floyd S. Knight, Edgar C. Low, Franklin W. Parks, Earlee Pope, George T. Rodgers, Daniel R. Trussell, Charley Winfield, Wesley H. Winfield. Dr. Frank Petty Hixon enlisted in Pensacola, Florida, Dan Frank Hixon and R. C. Richardson.

My grandmother Hixon Baxter and Mr. Malachi Ivey bought some

stock in the Mobile and Girard Railroad. The first Wednesday in July was stockholders day and one adult and a child under twelve years of age could go to Columbus, Georgia on each share. That was one of the highlights in my life. It was country come to town. We got off the train at the Broad Street Station and there was always a boy at the station selling ice cream cakes that we enjoyed very much. I suppose I was about 10 years old when the Central of Georgia leased it for 100 years. That put an end to our trips to Columbus.

My grandmother Hixon went to spend the day with her close friend Mrs. George Rodgers (who lived about four and one half miles east of Perote) and was leaving unusually early. Mrs. Rodgers asked her why, she said, "I am getting married tonight." She married Mr. Ezra Baxter.

The furniture my father and mother commenced housekeeping with was made in Perote by a Mr. Slaton(?). He must have been the man Mrs. Rumph wrote about having a factory here. We still have the dresser, a table and safe.

There was a colored man, King Bell who rented land from Sam J. Starke. One day he was plowing near an old stump and plowed up a pot of money. No one ever knew how much it was except Mr. Starke. He bought the Walter Brooks house with part of it and colored people have owned it ever since.

Mr. Tasso Culver lived in the Brooks house and while he was living there his son James had appendicitis. Dr. Hunter from Union Springs came down and operated on him on a table. The operation was a success. Before that time operations were not performed often.

After the war Captain Dawson taught school here at two different times, first 1879-80, second 1882-83. Soon after that he died leaving his wife with five girls and one son, the youngest about six years old. She moved to town and taught school in her home. Her daughter Amorette assisted her. We went to school to her, then they moved to the country for her son to farm but they were not there very long. He was so stout and his feet were so small he could not walk much. They moved back to town and Mrs. Dawson taught school again in her home. We went to her there. Mr. Arthur Peach taught in the schoolhouse at the same time.

We had one cold spell in the winter of 1899. The temperature dropped below zero. There was enough snow on the ground to sleigh ride. The young men put runners on a goods box, hitched a horse to it and carried the girls to ride.

My father had a tenant living in front of his home. The tenant family consisted of the man, his wife and two children. It was in the winter and the children were playing in front of the fire on a quilt. The man was on one side of the fireplace, his wife on the other and a dog was lying under the stove in the kitchen asleep. A thunder storm came up, lightning struck the chimney, tore it down, the mantle and window on the opposite side of the room, scattered live coals all over the room, set the bed afire and killed the dog that was in the next room and did not hurt a member of the family. It was raining so hard they dipped water out of the cotton rows and put out the fire.

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Brooks lived in a small house north of Dr. Walker's where the parsonage now stands. His sister Isabella ("Ibbie") lived with them. After Mrs. Brooks died then Mr. Brooks' relatives from Troy came to move Miss Ibbie in a wagon. Miss Ibbie sat in a rocking chair in the back of the wagon. They tied the cow to the chair and the cow not being able to keep up it was not long before Miss Ibbie and the chair were pulled out. Her arm was broken but no more serious damage was done.

"Mrs. Dillard Henderson (Miriam Kirby) was so sick one night that someone had to sit up with her all night and it was to be Mrs. C. W. Rumph, Jr., and Miss Louise Rumph. It was cold and C. W. was afraid that Mrs. Kirby did not have enough wood to burn all night. It was dark and he went home and put some wood on his truck and carried down there. He backed the truck up to the back fence and threw the wood over in the yard. The next morning early Mrs. Kirby (Juline) went out on the porch and came back excited and said: "Somebody has stolen my fence. That is the meanest thing I ever knew of anybody doing."

About the same time C. W. went out and found the fence hooked on to his truck. He immediately went for a negro to help him put it back, thinking he might get it back before it was discovered.

When I was a child we had very few bought toys. We made a lot of things we played with. Thread boxes were used for wagons and

trains with empty spools cut in two parts for wheels. We used grass for dolls. Smut grass made nice lady dolls. The roots were thick and long so we could have bangs and plats or make knots of the back. There was another kind of grass that we used for children.

We played in the woods a lot. We made houses laid off with rocks. Leaves made nice beds and a short green moss we used for rugs. In front of one of our houses there was a large pine tree that had a forked limb near the ground. We nailed barrel staves across the fork for a seat and this was our buggy. The small slender pines we pulled down and used for horses.

We made dresses and hats of oak and any kind of large leaves we could find pinned together with "broom straw" (sage). We made strings of beads of "hog berries" now called Jerusalem or Christmas Cherries sold by florists as hot house plants. They grew profusely around where we lived.

We made sleds of barrel staves to slide down hills in pine thickets. We played in branches and made loblollies and tried to see which one could bog down to our knees. As soon as the weather got warm we went barefooted. Sometimes we fished in the branches with bent pins. Don't remember catching anything. There were nothing there except minnows and "horneyheads."

At school we played town ball, a game on the order of baseball only it was played with a rubber ball or one made of thread of an old hand knit sock.

The girls played mumble peg and checks. Checks was played like jacks now except you used five marbles and I do not know to describe mumble peg. It was played with a pocket knife.

The boys played marbles using five marbles in a ring and another for a taw. We played hopscot or scoth too. They play that now but not exactly like we did.

At Christmas the girls got a doll and a book and the boys knives and pistols. We always had firecrackers and Roman candles. Our stockings were filled as they are now but we appreciated the things so much more than they do now because we had so few toys and very little fruit and nuts except at Christmas. We had a good orchard and we

gathered hickory nuts, scaly-barks and walnuts but oranges, bananas, nuts and raisins were not shipped to Perote often.

Mr. C. W. Rumph and my father were in business together for a good many years, dissolved in 1891 or 1892. They bought kraut and dill pickle in half barrels and we enjoyed going to the store and getting them out of the barrel. They had chewing gum made of parafin rolled out thin, cut into squares and had cut out pictures pasted on it. We got that mostly for the pictures.

In those days we had charm strings made of different kinds of buttons. We carried them to school and exchanged buttons. I still have some of mine and a friend's.

I can just remember when the men rode fantastics at Christmas. They wore fancy costumes and false faces and would scare the little girls by trying to kiss them. They gave us cornucopias filled with little ball candy.

They played tournament but it is hard for me to describe. They had poles fixed certain distances apart with a piece nailed on to extend over the road with rings on it. The object of the game was to ride by fast and see how many rings they could take off with a long pole while riding by.

Another thing they did at Christmas for years was to "shoot the anvil". It was done by filling the hole in the middle with gunpowder, fixing a fuse, putting another anvil on top and lighting the fuse. It made a noise that could be heard all over town. (One Christmas (before I can remember) Mr. Will Ivey was up town drunk when they were fixing to shoot the anvil and insisted on sitting on it that they finally consented. He was never too drunk to want to do this again. This information was given me by an eye witness.)

October 7, 1921 the South Bullock District Fair was held here and was a great success. Perote won first prize, Bethel second and Inverness third.

Our booth was really lovely with vines of purple wisteria. Nella and Belle Carroll were asked to plan it because they were talented in decorating. We all made the flowers. They also planned a float for a Field Day the county held in Union Springs once. Each school in the

county had to a float that represented some historical event .Ours was the presentation of the flag to the Perote Guards by Mrs. M. J. Rumph in 1860. Juliet Rumph, her great granddaughter represented her dressed in a tan silk dress that belonged in Mrs. Carroll's trousseau, about 1874. Dan Hixon, her great grand son received the flag. The back ground of the float was solid with red roses, a scroll on the side telling what the float represented and was bordered with red roses also the inside of the wheels. Perote won first prize.

Most of the negroes here carry White Angel Burial Insurance. They have white caskets and white flowers and I was told, a white ambulance. They furnish two cars for the "mourners." Not long ago a man died in Birmingham and was brought here for burial. They furnished two cars. One was filled with people who never knew the dead man.

Perote has changed in recent years. So many of its citizens have moved away, a lot have died and the young people after finishing their education have left home. Most of the girls are teachers and most of the boys are engineers of some kind. People around here are interested in tree farming (1958). So much of the farm land has been laying out since the Government cut cotton, corn and peanut acreage. The farmers are raising cattle and a lot of the land is planted in pine trees. There are some renters and share croppers.

Bessie H. Rumph
Perote, Alabama
June 19, 1958

When Dr. Henry E. Peach graduated in dentistry he practiced in Perote a while before locating in Clayton, Alabama. There were two dentists who came here who did your dental work at your home. They used pedal machines for grinding your teeth.

Bullock County was formed on December 5, 1866, from Pike, Barbour, Macon and Montgomery Counties.

Mr. Christian Rumph was a Legislator in 1888. John R. Carroll was sheriff. Commissioners from here were Mr. D. A. J. Blue, Ben G. High, Ben P. Hixon, and Carl Green. Probate Judge—Fred D. Main.

In my early days Quarterly meeting lasted 2 days, Saturday and Sunday. At 9 o'clock on Sunday they had "love feast". They served bread and water, after which they had an experience meeting. In those days protracted meetings lasted two weeks or more.

There were two camp rounds not too far from Perote for some to attend. Wilkie Springs Camp Ground near Mt. Andrew and Rammage Spring near Brundidge.

MEMORIAL TO THE PEROTE GUARDS

by

Miss Emma Edwards, Perote, Alabama

Twenty-six years have now passed away,
Since the Perote Guards first donned the Confederate Gray
And marched forth to the call of the fife and drum,
To fight for Liberty, Friends, and Home.

As the banner of Stars and Bars was proudly waved
Each heart, flamed with zeal, like a soldier brave
The parting hand was clasped, though the tears would fall,
Bravely marched the Perote Guards to the bugle call.

First came the trials on Pensacola's malarial bay
Where some most promising lives were snatched away,
Then their fellow soldiers in a united band
Sent their dead comrades back to their native land.

With each casket came a letter which said
"Another one of our boys is dead;
Please bury him in the old churchyard,
For he you know was a Perote Guard."

Then came the capture of Island No. 10
Where they suffered and endured like brave true men.
When sick and imprisoned, they lay down to die
Without a fretful murmur or impatient sigh.

When called further to protect Hudson's Port,
They bravely defended the Grand Old Fort,
Nor yielded in battle on that terrible day,
Till they fell captured not conquered in the bloody fray.

Many lives were given for the cause which was lost,
The few battles that were gained were at a terrible cost

Still they fought through privation and cold
Until half of their suffering could never be told.

If my tongue could tell or my pen reveal,
What the soldiers suffered on the battle field
You my friends would stand spell-bound with awe,
At the sufferings and miseries caused by the war.

But at last there came an end to the bloody fray,
Lee surrendered for the men were dead who wore the gray
Twenty-six years have passed, years of sorrow and joys,
And this is Memorial Day to the Soldier Boys.

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JOHN T. MILNER'S TRIP TO CALIFORNIA

Letters to the Family *

Ft. Childs, 300 miles in
The Indian County.
May 18th, '49

Dr. Sister:

We are now at Ft. Childs on the Platte river and I find an opportunity of sending a letter back. I am well and hearty and have not seen an Indian except 7 friendly ones, nor had any mishap in any way. There are thousand of men going along the road in fact it looks like the wagons hauling cotton to Macon just after a rise in the staple. I believe that there are wagons stretched in sight of one another for 500 miles. I can't give you any items now, only that I am getting along finely and feel as safe as I would travelling from Burnside to Columbus. We just drive all day, turn our stock out on the Prairie grass at night and cook our supper and get in our wagons and go to sleep, except those who stand guard. There is not much game. We expect to get to California in August. The nearer we get the more cheering are the prospects. If I don't make any thing however I will be at home soon. I will write you again shortly from Ft. Laramie. I tell you don't be uneasy I am just as safe as men generally get to be.
My love to all.

Your Aff. Bro.
J. T.

(Cover) Austin, Mo. June 14.	10
Forward	5
Milner, Ga. July 23rd.	—
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To:

Miss Lilly E. Milner,
Milner, Pike Co., Georgia
Cusseta, Ga.

* John Turner Miller, born in Pike County, Ga., moved to Alabama after his trip to California and was one of the surveyors of the Montgomery and West Point Railroad. Later he surveyed the route of the old South and North which eventually became the Louisville and Nashville, and also selected the route of the Alabama and Chattanooga Railroad, which two roads figured in the controversy which subsequently resulted in the selection of the site and development of the City of Birmingham.

San Francisco

Nov. 14, '49

Dear father

Uncle Ned will bring this to you and I reckon it may for a moment be a matter of surprise to you that I am not with him. I hope however you will be reconciled when you learn the circumstances. I have heard nothing from you since I left and consequently am almost tempted to come home and see you. I tell you it is the hardest thing I ever did to forego the pleasure of seeing you all at home; but I hope you will conclude with me that it is best I should stay this winter at least and if you are still anxious and say say you had rather I would come and see you just write and I will leave everything and come. Uncle Ned will tell you all I can make money here and every one of our family who will come here can make money and a plenty of it. I would like to see you out here. Yet I don't think I want you to come and go to the mines without bringing with you some six or eight good hard working hands white hands for they are all out upon negroes in this country it is in fact a perfect Yankeedom but the Georgians can beat them in the gold mines. Steam saw mill with every thing complete will do well here if it comes pretty soon. It is true thousands of men die here but I think a man properly protected can enjoy better health than in the States, for if men were to live in Georgia as they do here they would all die and no mistake. I have enjoyed better health since I have been in California and I ever have in my life. Uncle Ed can tell you how things are etc. and it therefore needs not much comment from me.

I think however I can make a future here next year and I don't think it will pay for me to come home and back again in the spring, which I would be certain to do besides the trip is not very pleasant and I know the parting would be as bad as ever. I hope you will be satisfied that I stay from a conviction that it is for the best, and I hope also to meet several of our friends out here next April, don't come after April, for they will miss the best season for operations. Write to me often at San Francisco.

My love to all. Your obt. Son,

John T. Milner

N B I have thot that I would like to have Benny out here then

I am afraid he would get sick and probably die and knowing pretty well the consequences of such an event not only to me but to all of our feeling I am afraid to ask you to send him; besides if he stays at home and assists you I shall be better satisfied and I hope he will lose nothing by it. Bear with my absence a little while longer and if I have committed an error in staying let me know and I will come straight home. I have to day recd a commission from the Governor as surveyor for a large district of country. The most beautiful I ever saw, and I must fulfil my contract. It was gotten by the assistance of men of high standing in this country, and I must fill it. It is a good business I get 20 dollars a mile and there is not a sprig of anything in the way and it is as level as a house floor. I am dividing up large Spanish grants of some 5 or ten or twenty thousand acres into 20 to 40 acre tracts, besides we have a hotel that can't clear less than 100 dollars pr day, the frame cost here 25.00 and you sell it at home for 30 dollars. Lumber here is from 3 to 400 dollars pr M feet and worth that to get it framed. Uncle Ned will bring home part of our money and expects to buy a saw mill. If you and Uncle Ben like we would be glad to have you join us and I would like for you to select the machinery and hire some good clever fellow to put it up. It can't but make a fortune here in one year to all concerned. I would like to have three or four of our hard fisted Georgians out here I would give them good wages. Uncle Ed is coming back in Feb. I wish some of our family or friends would bring their wives out here. I would give them a house just for the sake of having a home myself. We have made about fifteen thousand dollars since we have been here have had about three thousand stolen out of our ten and 700 more hooked before our eyes. Uncle Ben will tell you all.

Your obt. son,
J. T. Milner

Willis J. Milner, Esq.
Milner, Pike Co.
Georgia

Pueblo San Jose
Nov. 25, 1849

Dear Father

I send you a few lines in order to let you know how I get along without Uncle Ed. I am well and doing so. I am fitting up our house have ten rooms renting for 1500 dollars pr month and 500 dollars

worth per month of house besides, I have a good room ten by twelve as a surveyors office and sleeping room. I will make money here this winter and live as comfortable as in Columbus, Ga. as far as room and eating are concerned. This is the finest and most civilized town in California, the seat of government and convenient to the mines. Flour and Pickled Pork and Bacon and Sugar must pay well if started from the State in Jan. or the first of Feb. Frame houses however will pay probably better. Flour is 45 dollars pr bbl. and bacon in proportion. There will be a great quantity started here by this—news and the first that gets here will pay well.

Uncle Ned can tell you all however.

My love to all and if you want to see me very bad just write and I'll come.

Your obt. Son,
John T. Milner

Willis J. Milner, Esq.
Milner, Pike Co.
Georgia

Pueblo San Jose
Dec. 23, 1849

My dear father and mother, sister and brothers

I will keep my promise to you about writing even if have deceived you about coming home. I rec'd your letter of the 1st of July I had rec'd two from Uncle Issaac and Aunt M of the 28 August the last intelligence I have had from home. I know however you have written, but those mail contractors for Cal. manage the business most miserably. I will get all of your letters this mail I reckon. I am glad you are satisfied that I came to Cal. and I do hope it may all end well. Uncle Ned will tell you what we have done and how we got here so I will tell you what I am doing here. I have a house in this town containing fourteen rooms rented for 1650 dollars pr month and have other business amounting to about four hundred dollars pr month besides my profession which brings me from 20 to 100 dollars pr day according to whether it rains or not. As I promised you I never will expose myself unnecessarily and when it rains I keep in my office around my stove reading, writing, mapping eating, ground peas (I've bot every one in

Cal. about 25 bushels and sell them at 16 dollars pr bushel. I gave four) talking with friends &c. I can be as comfortable here as I can anywhere except at home and have a good room and live as well as I ever did in my life. My board costs me only five dollars pr day and I have No. 1. I have a good cot, a mattress and two pr of machinow and one of common blakets and I do believe I have as many friends here as I ever had anywhere, but they can't be like home friends of course, but with Uncle Ed I used to feel just as if I was knocking about home and if some of the family Uncles *Benj. Jonathan* or if *Benny* could come out I would be satisfied. But it is too much for me to ask you to part with him. Uncle *Ned* can tell you how things are and if you can consent to send him do so; I want to come home as soon as possible. I am making more money here in one month than I can in one year at home. Uncle Ed asked me if I wanted you to come out? I told him I would state facts or would get him to do so and if you come I would be glad and would make your sojourn pleasant if no more, if I was able but if you concluded not to come, I would hope to see you again settled and happy at home. As to Uncle B. & J. I want them to come. I don't want *Uncle Pitt* or *Uncle Henry* or hardly *Uncle Charley* to come. *Cousin Cicero* could make a fortune by coming here. I believe candidly it is the best place for *Cousin J. B. Arnold*. I believe if he was to make from four hundred dollars to one thousand pr month by honest industry he would do well—at all events I do most anxiously want him to come. I do believe it would have the best effect on him. Webster is here and is as cool as a cucumber, has set into business and is doing well. There are men here that I knew in Ga. worse than cousin J. B. ever was, who are for the sake of friends at home and on acct. of the opportunity offered of redeeming the past, are making and saving their money. *Cousin Billy S* would have been independent had he have come out with me and Uncle. The money I now have invested is paying sixty pr cent a month or 720 pr year. Now is the time to make a fortune here. I was solicited yesterday to run for Surveyor General of the State of Cal. and would have been elected but the pay was small—only five or six thousand dollars pr year, and I now have engagements in my profession worth more than that—It was the first office I was ever offered by a legislature, and it looked like too long a leap from a gold digger to Surveyor Gen. This Town and Dist. went for me. Part of the San Francisco and part of the Sacramento besides other influences for which I was much obliged to all of 'em as they had no means of knowing me except from the citizens of this place. I am doing well enough and living comfortable as any man in California. I have money a plenty and if I get sick I can hire somebody to wait on me even if friends desert

me. I will come home next winter if I live and you don't want me to come sooner. It is a very poor chance to make gold here in the winter. Altho there are thousands now in the mines. It rains here all the time when it does rain and consequently it must be very disagreeable working in the mines in the rainy season. I would not expose myself as they are for 500 dollars pr day. But in the spring all will be well. If any of Pikers come out do tell them to get here on the March Steamer at farthest the April Str. I will leave my whereabouts at San Francisco either in the P. O. office or at Leonard & Fay's commission Merchants foot of Washington St. I think I may go to the mines about the 1st of April. But don't know certain if I can't get an excellent business here I will throw up my commission and go to the mines. I can hire men a plenty and put them to work. My experience little as it is worth a fortune. Any Georgia miner can make a fortune here. I do not know one of them who has not made money, in the mines. The vein mines in this country are just opening. The richest I ever saw. I am going to the Marijosa on the head of the San Joaquin, the best vein mines in the country, and have seen specimens worth 100 dollars pr bushel. I have seen gold got ten out of two rocks picked up on the surface about one foot square each 93 dollars. I do want the Pikers to come out here and make money. I believe they will all do well. Saw old Dan out here, he can make fifty dollars a day laughing. He won't run off from me I reckon.

San Francisco, 31st Dec 1849

Uncle Ned I wrote you last week on our business matters which you will see are in a pretty used up fix, for I tell you I am master of naught from naught, & nothing shorter. But I have this consolation, I know how a rich man feels which I would not have known had I not come to California. For until I found out old Leonard & Davenport didnt intend to pay us I felt pretty sick. But I now know for the first time how a fellow feels when he is broke & worse than broke. But I am like old Taylors Volunteers at B Vista altho whipped I wont own it as I dont know it, dr Uncle Ned. It is worse denying the fact & its no use crying about it neither. I simply thank God, that I have been able to stand up as well as I have under the blow, & that I have a prospect of making up the difference, here that is making California pay for itself, since Running the above I have seen Hawley & my lawyer thinking I might get some ideas I have not had before. But matters grow worse. Hawley now says the mill never was according to contract &

that the B Vista vein will pay 3 cents per lb., and he Hawley has been inquiring very particularly about our land in Texas &c. O my God I have that I have seen hard times but I have never known trouble before. I am in debt to day for 1 weeks board, & must pay up, tight papers but cant be helped. I have my bucket full of notes & due bills yet I cant get a meal for five thousand dollars as hard earned money as any man ever earned. I wrote you last week all about our business & find now the aspect of things are not altered.

I want our Texas land turned into money some how for I now owe \$2500 here & must pay it up & to tell the truth Uncle Ned it looks like a hard shot for me to dig it out here in California, yet I cant do anything else but dig for I have nothing to commence business on. I feared this when you left which was my great objection to you going. I always feared that when the trip came Old L & D would show their white feather. But Uncle Ned dont consider at all that I blame you for anything concerning our disappointment for I know you must have acted in all sincerity. But what I do hate is the great disappointment & to my father Mother Sist & Bros. at home. I can stand it & so can Benny. They as I wrote you have already or will soon institute suit against us for damages. They the whole of that motley crew of coyotes up there swear anything they please & may get us I tell you the old mill is in a bad fix It looks bad & is a poor concern apparently Our Texas land may pay our debts & I will be just where I started three years ago. I sometimes think of coming home & going to study medicine or something, yet I cant tell what. Write me at San Francisco as I don't know where three months may find me. Probably in Oregon surveying on the Sandwich Islands or China or Texas, or Georgia. I know not now what a day may bring forth, nor can I now say I will or can do anything tomorrow. Tell my father Mother Sists & Bros & Friends the cause of my not being able to come home. You cant probable assist me here now, but you can look out for yourself at home. As for me I have nothing & cant be hurt much no way, Our land will pay our debts probably even if I be so unfortunate as to make nothing here this year. In a word Uncle Ned we are swindled cheated of everything we have in Cal. & have made here. I am broke & four thousand miles from home, where I once had friends to day they know me not so good bye John, you no business having such luck

John T Milner

Uncle Ned if you will take or can get any body to take over Brazos land (I say Brazos for I would not look one moment but just take that

tract as I hve & everybody says it is a bargain at 12 dollars an acre) & advance enough to pay our debts & I would be willing to come home but I dont want you to trouble yourself or our friends to pay our debts unless you can do it through the land. I will stay here & dig it out before I would ask my friends at home to sacrifice anything for our losses here. Just settle the point with Kyle immediately & morgage or sell the land for money enough to pay our debts and My God knows I will come home, for I hate to look at these infernal Yankees. Yet I dont want to run away for this would ruin me forever. Settle with Kyle next week as Hawley will write by the next mail I fear. But dont sacrifice it, if you can help I had rather morgage the land.

Pueblo San Jose

Jan. 10th '50

My dear father

As the steamer goes out on the 15th inst I will avail myself of the opportunity of writing. The mail leaves here twice a month now for the states & vice versa. In six or eight months it will be not trouble to get home, & back for I believe everybody will be here after awhile.

The Legislature is still sitting here, making laws for Cal. I am well & hearty & eat as much beef as anybody. I have failed to get the rent of my rooms this month & am to night a little *blueish*. Its only twelve or fifteen hundred dollars however. And I tell you as long as I can keep well I'll have money a plenty in California. I now live comfortable & easy awaiting the return of Spring to go to the mines, trading & working & making money. The winter season in Cal is undoubtedly the most disagreeable time that any man ever saw. It rains every day, is warm & *muddy, muddy*. Boots are scarcely ever blacked here. I have some teams running in the city of San Francisco, & the mud is deep enough to float a vessel. If Uncle Ned has not started back, start immediately with all the coin he can raise as coin is worth a premium here, & also money is worth from ten to twenty pr ct pr month.

This will be a harvest year in Cal. Money will be made in abundance. Speculation is too high & wild men must come to the paying day & there we will see what we will see. Provisions are plenty but would be high for the States.

I am now rooming with Mr. Seaborn Jones (Neph of Seaborn Jones from Columbus) & Tom White. Have a good bed etc. glass windows & stove & six chairs & Table & pay two hundred Dollars pr month beside dont Gamble, get tight smoke cigars or any of them things & go by the Catholic Church every day. So you see I am a little civilized yet. I hear real genuine Piano now on the adjoining lot. The world never saw just such a mixture as we now have in Cal. Oh I've got a pound of fresh butter & a gallon of milk under my bed Mighty good, I tell you wont you take some? only cost 3 dollars pr pound & 2 dollars pr gallon for milk & fifty cents for a piece of bread to eat with it. They have the richest milk here in the world. The grass is about two inches high all over the plain. What a beautiful sight! I never will spend another winter here if I can get any where else. I want & will come home next winter or feel certain. Send me the Columbus & Griffin Newspapers regularly any how in the world, as a paper is the next thing to a letter especially if it comes from home. I recd yours of the 1st July, 23 Oct. & Sis. Lily's of the 7th of November, & was glad to hear all well & Cousin Mary married? Well I 'spose I must be getting pretty old—nearly grayheaded—Miss Amanda as was, is now a widow, & still I am the same apparently—getting younger I reckon however, as they say people do who come to Cal. I guess Benny will go off with Cousin Willis. I hope Sis Lily & self will give me an invitation, as I want some cake. Do stir up my friends to write to me as I dont mind a little postage for money is nothing here. Rem I've been from home twelve months & recd only three letters it is pretty hard. Make Benny write once a month at least. Uncle Ned will tell you all about the country etc. The Spring is the time to work here, & the sooner any of my friends get here the better. Any hard working man can make a fortune here in a year or two, but a lawyer or Doctor or clerk had better stay home. Capital tells here. A man can buy a team & make it pay for itself in one month & so with many other things. I will try & take the best care I can of myself & come home as soon as possible. It will be foolishness however for me to rough out the winter here & come home in the Spring or Summer. So you need not look for me before Christmas, & if I dont change greatly I want to eat Christmas Dinner at home. My love to all & do send me some Griffin & Columbus papers. Tell the neroges howdy all of them. Continue to write to San Francisco until I direct otherwise.

Your obt Son
John T. Milner

Pueblo San Jose
Jan 11th

My dear Sister

I have recd one & only one letter from you & I am pained to know that you have written me only one since I left home. I expected on my arrival in Cal to find a bushel of letters but to my surprise found only one from Sis Lily. Well I suppose you have concluded that a man that makes his bed hard should lie in it. You dont know however the importance I would attach even to a scrawl from little Willis, I, in this country of no comforts. I hope you will write however after finding I have thus far braved the perils and dangers of my condition. I recd two from Pa one of the first of July & another of the 23rd Oct. Yours of the 7th Nov is therefore the latest intelligence from home. You had recd mine you say. I have written so many I dont know which you alluded to. Cousin Mary is married your time next of course I expect before I get home next fall or winter. You wrote me the first intelligence of Mrs. A. C. Clarke's marriage & misfortune, both in one letter. I wrote her a long foolish, gayish letter a week or two before I heard of the above incidents. All entirely out of place, but I was entirely ignorant nobody having written to me but Pa & that before the latter event transpired. I wrote her as if flying around & about as Miss Amanda. All I want to come home for is to see the folks, more especially the Geogin Girls, & I tell you I am coming certain. Start Uncle Ed back to Cal. Any of men hard working men in Ga can make a fortune here in a few years. I can make a tolerable one in a few years probably by next fall. I think however I will stay here for a year or two yet. That depends upon how things look at home. When I get there next fall I hope Pa will come home & settle & be at home & stay at home. Write me in your next how you like the Alabamians etc. What the home folks are all doing how much butter each one makes & how many chickens they raise & how many turnips & how many pigs they can count & everything about the negroes their doings etc.

In fine not a little bit of a sheet of paper but a whole newspaper full in fact a newspaper. I have nothing to write from here Uncle Ned cant tell you about. Only that it rains every day & all the time and in the spring there will be a great farming movement here in the Irish potatoe line. The legislature is sitting here now making laws for Cal. Everything quiet and going on as in the States. In fact if it was not for the immense piles of money you wouldn't know but that you were in some rich valley in the States. I live well enough for anybody, on milk butter

at three dollars pr pound & chickens two dollars a piece & eggs 50 cts apic or 6 dollars pr dozen. Venison & beef steak & pork etc. Provision of all kinds plenty & money also. Tell the young ladies in Pike & adjoining counties I am ready when I get home. Tell Sis Nety to write any how in the world & Benny & Six & Uncle Isaac & Aunt M & cousin Mary & all of 'em. My love to all & look for me in Dec next if I live. Write to Francisco.

Your Bro. J T Milner

San Francisco Feb 17 1850

Uncle Ned

The mail leaves this evening & I will send you another letter. To day I got my award in my great source of Tribulation. I get exactly what the boy shot at — & nothing else besides my board bill traveling expenses witnesses fees cost of court & lawyers fees out of pocket & glad enough to get off at that. I intend to bring home a transcript of some of the evidence in the trial. It will make you boil over & your head swim I wanted to fight somebody for the first time in my life. But concluded to keep cool, & make the best of it which I did & now by the blessing of God if I am ever caught in such another scrape I hope some bodys negro will kill me. They would have got damages, but old Leonard accidently got his foot in it He acknowledged the right of Possession in the B-Vista Company in giving them a Lien on the property & they had it recorded against said mill as the property of said co & they could not get around the record. Had it not been for that they would have sworn us out of house & home. But old master was looking at us & made him put his foot in it unintentionally, & I had him so he couldn't move. I now intend to go up & settle up my business as near as I can & start home as soon as I can. We can raise money enough to bring us home I reckon & no more. We can start I reckon on the 15 of March. But look for us now until you see us, which I tell you I hope will be soon. Tis hard but I suppose Tis fair, at all events it cant be helped now. Uncle Ned I have learned a lesson in California & that is that "all aint gold that glitters" I will now be home I hope in time to go to Texas with you in April. My love to all my mind has just been relieved so much that I will sleep sounder to night than I have for the last six weeks, I feel like. I had just recovered from a long and severe spell of sickness so intense has my enxiety been & so much has my mind been troubled on account of this business although I have lost all & more too I feel actually relieved & can eat

heartily. It has been my daily study for the last six weeks in fact nothing else has crossed my mind I have wandered about almost crazy frequently not knowing where I was going. But now I know how the thing stands & can think of something else. Home Sweet home & home friends is my next aim and end. My love to all. My respects to the ladies & have the old gobler ready for the boys are coming & no mistake. Tell Paw how things are now & tell my friends I have done my best but have achieved nothing & I return minus time money labor, but with some little of the worlds experience. Look for us in April

All well Your neph

John T. Milner,

Continue to write without fail.

E. H. Milner, Esq.
Milner, Pike
Georgia

Lomora Camp Mar 28

Dear Father I am again in the mines & consequently can write only occasionally. I am well but making little money. The rainy season is just ending I think & we call from 8 to 10 dollars nothing to count pr day. Uncle Ned has not yet returned nor have I heard from him except at Panama. I have an agent in San Francisco where you can direct my friends to inquire for me. (Leonard & Lay). Do write I have not time to write much, not many letters. My love to all, & look for me in 10 or twelve months.

Your son
John T. Milner

Willis J. Milner, Esq.
Milner, Pike Co. Geo.

Cullomer or Sutters Mill
May 5th, 1850

Dear Brother

I sit me down to let you hear from us. We are all here safe and sound in good health but disappointed in finding the quantity of Gold that I expected it does seem to me that Ed and John were perfectly

blinded. There is lots of Gold here any quantity of it but it is just as it was in Lumpkin it is just as hard to get or harder if possible than it was in the first diggins in Lumpkin the Little Creek they worked on is the richest creek by half that I have seen it is rich about half mile up the creek where they hapened to work, but there is a man to every half foot, but there is mines here that will pay #5 or 6 dollars per day they say ounce but the ounce ones ar verry scarce I have got the boys all at work doing about #5 or 6 per day and expect to do better but I will say to you that I am very much disappointed. I shall come home as soon as I am perfectly satisfied. I found John G. up on the same creek they were on last fall, not doing any thing, at all, him and six others have been turning the creek 4 weeks and have made nothing, he is in good health, and says he can make it but it will be a chance in a thousand, his tavern he has sold, and I dont know any thing about it. I think he has got money a plenty to do him if he can get home this fall we will all come this fall if we live this fall for good. Brother I say to you in the positive that I am disappointed, it is one man in a thousand that makes money here. I recon we all can get enough to get home. I am not disheartened at all for I have seen enough to pay me for my trouble if I can get back home healthy and find all well but I never will. I feel that Ed. & John has done us justice, they did not tell what they thot, it was just the idea of being in California and making the raise and to tell you the truth they were the only men that did well, in the country. I say to you I will advise you never no never think of comeing here the trip would kill you certain. There is nothing here to entice any body ther are more disappointed men here than ever I saw in men in my life. They are just like they are in Lumpkin, only so many more we will do the best I can for all of them I hope Bro Jonathan will not come, unless Ned has good Luck he will surely be ruined all though I saw 3 men take out #2000, dollars yesterday, right where John and Ned left off, and then I saw a thousand that made expenses. There are some ruch spots but more poor ones than ever you say. Lumber is not worth the freight to San Francisco, and there is no earthly chance for a mill here only in the mountains and the men her dont want but forty feet of Lumber and not that the cities are as sickly holes as ever I looked at, but we are up in the mountains where it is hot days and cold nights but seems to be healthy but cant say how it will turn out hope we will do well and get back this fall for which I hope you will pray without seascing. Now what I tell you remember and I will give you another shortly as soon as I try good what I can do, I hope we will all do well &----- Br.

Letter mutilated--Address cut off.

Sacramento City July 8th '50

My Dear Father

I send this pr Shady Oliver who can tell you all about me more in fact than I can write. I am well &c. & I would say to you Shady can and will tell you anything you want to know. He & Nils have become satisfied & are off for home. I get homesick when any of my friends leave, yet I know it will wear off in a short time. If Uncle Ed would come back I would be better satisfied for I think he would stay with me a short time at least until I got ready to come home. The trip is too long tedious expensive & unhealthy for me to undertake it twice & so I think you will concur with me in staying a little longer & then quit for good. Because you know the value of the adage "Strike while the iron's hot" & I am certain you will not censure me for attempting the same. I am now & I believe I can continue to make money in Cal. But still I am afraid to encourage friends to come here for fear the homesick or some other sick may overtake them. My friends, Shady & Nils have done well & Shady says he believes he could clear 2500 by Christmas yet he had rather work in the old Pike for \$2.00 pr day. They have all done well except Ansley who has been sick, I even. Jack Elder he is in high hopes yet I fear he cant stand it nor can any man fro Geo. unaccustomed to hard work or unacquainted with mining count upon making money here in the mines for that reason I fear Benny will not stand it. Tho if he comes if he cant mine I will get him into something else. I hire all my work now, & do but very little myself. Nor do I intend to do much more in Cal. I have a decent little pile now & by Nov when I hope to start for home I except to have enough to make me tolerable comfortable. I would have written sooner but expected some one to come home very constant. I think I shall hear from Uncle Ed (if he has started on the plains) in a few days as some have got in who started in May & the last of Apr., & he can come now as fast & as comfortable as any body. But I do hop he has not brot his wife. But if Benny does come you may depend upon my trying to get him back safe & sound at all events.

Do make your mind easy about me & if he is coming about him for we cant starve in Cal. & if Uncle Ed comes we will have a good nurse & a friend & I hope respect for those I have always delighted to honor will prevent us from sullyng our name & character. Do continue to write. My love to Ma & sisters and bros. as well as all of my friends both white & black — for I now know what a friend old Tom &c have been to me., for their hands have worn the pick handle for me & I know

the value of the services from hard experience. I told Shady to build me a house & I would pay the carpenter if you would furnish the lumber &c. I will come as soon as I can

Your Son John Milner

Willis J. Milner, Esq.
Milner, Pike Co.
Geo.

Sac City July 31st

My Dear Father

I have just recd nine letters from home and they are the first since March. I have just heard of Benny's trip across the plains. He is not yet in though I am looking for him every day. I am sorry he came that way. But I will go out & meet them as soon as I can hear from them. I am well & hearty & doing as I was when Shady left. I will be glad when Uncle E & Benny get here for then I shall feel like if I get sick or some mishap should come that I have a friend here. For I tell you I have had some hard experiences with some who ought to have been friends. I intend to do the best I can for Benny & if he wants to come home I'll send him along though I want him to make something. But if he has the Hippo as bad as I had it last year when I first got in He will be homesick indeed. I tell You I think I will get him into teaming goods from here to the mines as he is sort of a mule man & I dont want him to work in the mines. He can make very good wages teaming I think & not work hard or expensively. I will continue in the mine. My love to all friends and relatives. I cant answer the whole 9 letters now but will as soon as I can.

As soon as Benny gets in I will let you hear from him.

Your Son, J. T. Milner

Willis J. Milner, Esq.
Milner, Pike Co.
Geo.

Sutters Mill Aug 15th

Dear Father

I am again in the White Settlements & must write you a short

letter. I have had ocasion to repent coming since I left but now I am glad I have come. I tell you a trip across the plains is anything but pleasant, or any thing but a pleasure trip. I came through however with as good luck as most men in fact with better luck than thousand upon thousands. Lost all my wagons & provisions except enough to bring us through. But there is a plenty of everything here & gold a plenty to buy it, & what we did get through was the more valueable to us. We brot some few mules through & a carriage which we sold for more than our whole outfit cost us in the States. Things are high here. I am stronger & heartier than I have been for five yrs, & can make a future here in three or four years, digging with my own hands if I can be healthy. An ounce of gold is what a penny weight used to be in Georgia—that is a man must have an ounce a day for any service whatever, & that is what is called pretty good average work. But of all the work you ever saw they do it here. They take up their gravel (for the mines are in nearly every respect like our Georgia mines) in small bags & tin Buckets & toat it off some two or three hundred yards & pile it up & then pan it out or wash it with a kind of a machine that washes Ins about as fast as two men can pan. In fact half of the miners use their pans only & if they dont make an ounce off they go. They say they must get fifty cents a pan full or they won't work. I will be glad however to work for 25cts pr panfull. We have been here 10 or twelve days, & have got nearly ready to go to work. In fact we have made our expenses testing about. They are the prettiest mines to work I ever saw. The Slate drains nearly every where & is as dry as a chip. It is nearly all hard slate just like the *stret in?* on Cane Creek. It is rich & no mistake. With twenty good negroes & the power of managing them as at home I could make from ten to 15 thousand dollars pr month, but a fellow has to knock it out here with his own fist or not all. I cant say when we will come home but I'll let you know in my next. I never saw a more orderly & civil community in my life. I have not seen a drunken man in the country nor heard of any robberies or murders. Thousands of bushels of flour & quantity of merchandise have been lying out in the open air here without any guard kept over them at night yet nothing is disturbed. We are all well & doing well, all I state is the truth & nothing more.

Your Son J. T. Milner

Write to San Francisco soon

My love to all

Your son

J. T. Milner

Stockton Jan 7th 1851.

Dear father

I must write a few lines as I cant come home. I cant come-----
 ----- Uncle Ed had contracted to put -----
 few at work on the wood work some time when lo & behold we recd
 intelligence that the machinery had not been shipped from N. York.
 You cant imagine our dissapointment. We now or I must stay until it
 comes & put it up. Uncle Ned will come home, I reckon. I have just
 taken up a farm for me and Benny on the Merced River south of Stock-
 ton & have just put two ploughs to day for which I paid eighty-dollars.
 What a price for a plough. I intend putting in about fifty acres & keep
 my stock on my ranch. Benny & John Ashly & Jeff Clayton are my
 farmers & ranchers. I have had Benny all winter in my store in Grass
 Valley, but am now going up after him to come down & go to farming
 on the Merced. I have about 250 acres of good bottom land about 12
 miles from the mines & in the immediate vicinity of the great Maripossa
 veins, the greatest that I ever heard of if I did write you such a big lie
 last year about them. I would write you bigger ones but I will not say

----- Uncle Ned -----
 when he comes home. He is very much disappointed about that machin-
 ery & is coming home soon I think.

Do not be uneasy about us & make it point to take care of Benny &
 myself as much as I can & we are trying to do something for ourselves.
 We know you would cheerfully assist us at home, if we were there,
 but we now have an opportunity which if we improve aright will be of
 great advantage to us for we make nothing we will know better the
 value of home etc. But with anything like luck we *cant fail*, & Lord
 only knows what sends so many Georgians home, except the reflection
 of how "comfortable I may live at home on my Father's hard earnings."
 I know many who refuse large wages here & go home. If necessary I
 would give names. Four dollars pr day even exceeds our work air castles
 in Pike, & for a salary of twelve or fifteen hundred dollars any of us
 would traverse Ethopia's wilds or go through the Mexican War and
 pestilence & famine & war. Yet we can't stay in California amid all
 necessary comfort-----for any hard working man.-----
 per day in Cal. Well I guess they all want to go home & spend their
 year's work in a Christmas frolic & come back next year. But I want
 my celebration to be after I find out that I "can do better" in California
 than in the States or in other words I want to come home & stay when
 I do come, & let my travelling expenses go in something valuable at

home. I tell you we are doing *very well*. I am healthy if I did have the cholera in Sacramento. Some of the boys will remain a few days & I will write again—

My love to you all

Your Son

John T. Milner

Write to Stockton for awhile.

Willis J. Milner

Milner, Pike Co.

Georgia

Maripossa, Feb. 12, 1837 (1851?)

My dear father

I have concluded to write you a few lines tonight. I am living or Benny rather on the Merced river on a ranch or grazing farm, fattening my mules and sowing barley & corn & potatoes & other small crops etc. I have a beautiful farm on the river & am now fixing a location for a pounding mill on some of these veins, which are rich as I wrote you last winter. I am making arrangements to night & to morrow & by next week will be settled on a vein. They are rich indeed, hundreds of localities here on veins which will pay from 1 to 50 dollars per bushel & ranging from one to 25 feet thick. My dear father I hate to excite you & I wont do it if I can help it. But I will tell you as near as I can as I always have the truth as it appears to me. These veins are numerous & rich & large, & as to paying will pay well. There are two little pounding mills here pounding about 25 to 50 bushels each & averaging from 2 to four hundred dollars each pr day. Uncle Ned and myself have just visited Col. Freman's & Commodore Stockton's mines & they are only two in I say a thousand localities of equal richness, yet they are doing well & sending for large machinery. There is money & chance a plenty in these veins I repeat it. But I fear to advise you or any other man at home to go into them. Yet what I have in California will be invested in veins before I leave here, and if I luck well will bring home plenty to pay me for my trip etc. Notwithstanding some of my friends have expressed themselves at home that I have a pretty good prospect of starving, & of course Benny too & Uncle Ned & all the rest of us. Yet I have five or six thousand pounds of flour and pork Bacon molasses, liquors etc. according & 25 or thirty mules & wagons & money a plenty

for any ordinary purposes, and can make my ounce a day in the mines. I want you to watch the action of Congress in relation to the mines in this country both vein & deposits & if they pass a law to sell them, any amount of capitol can be profitably employed here in buying by men who know a gold mine when they see it.

These old Branches are like old Pigeon only gouged a little & and veins are not hardly touched. Yet, I think we will be fixed so as to be able to come home even if we have to come back in the course of this year. But I want to make something to live on it is what I came to California for & notwithstanding I love my friends & hope I respect them (yet I fear they think ere this otherwise) I feel like it is my duty to try a little longer. I can come home any day well paid for my trip etc. But I dont see any prospect of making one tenth at home that I can here or think I can. It seems like the only thing is management & perserverance for men working men not frolicking any are now making from 4 to 8 dollars pr day — We will come home as soon as possible

My love to all your obt
 Son and Bro John T. Milner

Willis J. Milner
 Milner, Pike Co.
 Georgia

San Francisco Mar 25th. 51

My dear parents Bros Sisters

I must continue to write if I cant come home. We are all well & hearty & doing as well as we could expect. I am now in Francisco getting our machinery up to Stockton. We have got our houses all built & are getting out ore, awaiting only the machinery. Our ore contains good Insomuch that Old Georgia Miners say it is 100 times better than our Georgia mines. Uncle Ned & myself have two of the best veins in the whole country, & can get any others we want. But we intend to get these two under way & then we can tell better how it lays. We are going down on both, hauling out the dirt or rock rather as the veins are from 5 to 10 ft thick in cars by a windlass, & every blast is rich. We are about 20 ft down in one & about ten in the other if all pays every rock or piece of rock. But I can let you know something definite about how many dollars we can make pr day in a few

weeks. With a mill Benny is very well fixed driving a team also John A. & Willis & two other boys.

The boys will do. They aint manny sick & many of our Georia men are or were — I dont know how they are now. I guess grubbing or splitting rails at 25 cents pr day is more samer than digging gold at 5 dollars pr day. However give us this year to try it & if we cant come it we will come and let you board us for 25 cents pr day, & we will tell you what the Elephant looks like without any charge —cept now & then a little pocket change & a new coat occasionally. Just let the boys alone & encourage them for this year and they will either come out at the big end of the Horn or come home & I know you wont care much if they do both. But if there is any calculation on signs we certainly can do both. The ore we are now getting out will average ten cents per lb of Rock, & I know we can pound out from 20 to 40 thousand dollars a day. But nobody knows how long it may continue as good. We think we see on top of the ground about 1000 tons of rock that will pay four dollars pr hundred or 80 pr ton, This alone would pay as well, & not go five feet under ground. But as the Spaniards say "Poko Tiempo" or in a little while we will know more about it. They have been fighting Indians all around us. But have at last made a treaty & they say they will be the white man's friend &c. &c. But they will steal mules to eat. The country is very healthy, now no sickness of any kind & also very dry there having been scarcely any rain this season. The miners are making now about four dollars pr day, or rather you could hire a man for less than 100 dollars pr month, and if I mistake not the wages will range from fifty to one hundred all the year. Tell Shady such a man as he could get here now from 200 to 400 per month & pound. Vein miners are scarce & much in demand all over the country. They are discovering veins all over the country. I wish he was here. I am paying one man four hundred pr month to blast & get out rock. But he is a rusher. A regular wheel horse. I weigh more now than I ever did in my life by four or five pounds & am as red & hearty as Benny's face used to be. Why is it big nigger John T now at a house raising, almost same as Jef. C. But I am little fraid of Benny & Johnny. However I wont lift with Boys myself. I have just Recr by express from Sacramento a letter from Pa. The first twelve months & also about 10 others from Sis L & Ma & Sis Nety & Eliz & Aunt Martha & Aunt Pamilia & Uncle Huey Smith all of which I have read, & from the tone of every one it would seem that you all are certain we are in a situation of extreme want & suffering Come home, come home, we will support you, never mind what I have paid out But just come

home, & we will make up your expenses. Now that is all right enough if we were indeed suffering or were willing to give it up without trying to do something. But I do hope or did hope you all considered your sons and Bros. a little Better Material than to give up & come home just because fond parents offer to board us for nothing Come & enjoy yourselves, at whose expense If we have to work is it not better to get a good price than nothing? But say you we will "Work for You." I hope you will give us a little more time., and if we can't paddle then we will come in Just let us try a little longer. Old Uncle Johny will tell you how we are.

(Not signed)

Note: This letter is not signed nor addressed)

No date and no address given

Our machinery never arrived until Feb. 17th & we just got the last piece out of the ship last week. It was on a very large ship covered up in coal & lumber, & it has been more than two months unloading & when they came to light they were not half as large as Uncle Ned always told me they were so that I or we bot another or part of one this week of twenty of twenty horse power. They are too small for this country. We are putting them up however the extra castings costing up however the extra castings costing up however more than the engine are worth. Such engines would sell here for from 12 to 1500 dollars. I know several that have been bot for that or less. The boilers are too small only 14½ feet long 2½ diameter & one flue of 10 inches. We have got out four or five hundred tons of ore & will get to work in two weeks we hope. We would have been sooner could we have got the machinery sooner off of the ship. The other we have bot is all complete castings and all. We are working for a company in San Francisco putting up a mill for 18000 dollars. All we will have here in two months that wont be cash will be a ¼ interest in two pounding mills the balance of the three mills are in cash or what is the same. We have now in notes near 20,000 dollars, beside ¼ interest in two pounding mills on two of the best veins in the country.

Besides mules wagons & provisions enough for six months to come. It is my intention now as soon as we get our mills going & see what they will do to come home & see you all & stay at home. I intend to sell

out if I can. There is a great rush now in the Quartz Business & intend to sell out while the spirit is up.

I saw Moffat & Cos. certificate or mint return of 103 pounds of quartz Rock on Friday in San Francisco. The one hundred & three pound yielded \$8747.00—Eight thousand seven hundred & forty seven dollars — this came out at one blast on the Carson Creek vein about 75 miles north of us. This is a fact I saw part of the rock left unassayed — It is said they got out \$200,000 but I dont believe it for they brot the best of the blast to San Francisco & I dont think including that assayed by Moffat the United States agent in California & what I saw in Gregory's office would make twenty thousands dollars, but that is a big pile for one blast in a vein of several feet thick. Yet if I had it I would sell it for 10000 dollars allowing me the privilege of working that pocket that is rich beyond a doubt. But when I got a good price for my vein investment I will sell, & come home, but I if I cant sell I would sacrifice it if I find out it will pay anything. We will find that out by next steamer I hope. I will conclude by requesting you to show our friends the bad result of so many discouraging letters. We are a long ways from home some of us young with our sympathies very easy excited. In such case I deem it the duty of parents if they apprehend calamity befalling their children rather to stimulate them than be continually have cold water over them. At the receipt of each succeeding package of letters from home. There is for a while a spirit of deep despondency pervading our little camp, because of the suffering & predictions of our friends at home. We feel that their sufferings are unnecessary. Because if ever there was a contented set of boys we are the ones. We have plenty to eat & live in the loveliest country in the world as far as looks are concerned. We have had several rains lately, which has clothed all nature in verdure, covered with flowers & grass. I scarcely ever feed my mules, turn them out at night always grass a plenty everywhere. There are thousands of acres of grass on the Merced just below our mill.

It is a healthy country—I cant see what has raised such a outcry in the States. Miners are making from 3 to 8 dollars pr day. Provisions cheap, & every thing flourishing. I cant see why they are not willing for the boys to stay here & try a little longer. Just tell them to be easy & contended for a while we will take care of our selves — & let us stay a little longer. We could come next steamer but reason & our judgment says wait a little longer. I will come this year if I live.

My love to all Your Son

John T Milner

Write to Stockton.

San Francisco Apr 14 1851

My dear father

As the mail is about closing I must write you a few lines. We are all well except cousin W. L. Smith. He has been sick about four or five days but was getting out when I left the mines on friday last. I am now hauling our machinery out came down to Stockton & loaded up yesterday & sent the wagons on with Benny, Johny & three others five in all, & I got on a boat & came down last night. You have no idea how insignificant distance seems here we started from Burns digging-80 miles from Stockton on friday came down & loaded on yesterday Monday, & I look for the wagons on Sunday again, & this is the way we go all the time. We look on 80 miles on horseback here about like you look on a trip from Barnsville to Macon on the River. We frequently ride 50 miles pr day with our mules & wagons. I tell you my dear father I am anxious to come home to see you. Yes — my father first & greatest of my expectations now is to see you all again in a few month. But my hands are now tied here. You know enough of the world to imagine my position. I have engagements to fulfil & must meet them & then I will come. I want to come. Benny my dear bro. there never was such a boy in the world. I look at him at times, & conclude that if ever there was a perfect model he is the boy. He never says bro John this nor that. But works even on ahead takes good care of his mules, he has six fine mules, & has not an enemy in Cal. But on the contrary he is everybodys friends & all delights to respect him. Even John A. & Jef & and the rest of the boys look upon Benny as we were all wont to look upon old Uncle Joshua at home.

If I make anything my dear father he shall share it, & if I make nothing he shall be paid for his time well. He never says a word about home for he knows bro John & Uncle Ned are doing their best to get off, & he concludes naturally all is right. I sometimes think you would be happy could you have him at home for I know that there lives not another family under the sun more capable of rendering men hope than yours, taking out taking out your oldest & most constant source of trouble—myself — But if I could satisfy you or compensate you in any way by doing anything I would but I know not what for I cant come home now, nor in three months, but I will assure you that my efforts will be homeward, from the time I recd your letter about the 15th of March but until I see you in Gegia. As to our business I fear to write. I will simply say our prospects are most flattng & in such a fix that in two or three months we think & hope to be able to commence fixing for home. Just as soon as we can put up two mills, & run them thirty days we will be

off for home. I intend to try & sell out. We have only about seven thousand five hundred dollars of property, except our mules & wagons that we will have to travel in. We will need all our arrangmts cash with the above exceptions. I am just this way. I intend to make this last effort & if I cant make a pile I intend to come off with what I can & if I do make I intend to come. So you may look for me any how, for I tell you I have lived & worked hard enough for a while.

We will all come together I think. Cousin M. J. S. thinks of staying however & attending to one of the mills, continue to write to Stockton, & when we can we will surely come. My love to all. Tell lizzie I will answer hers soon. Benny & all the boys write this mail. We are not homesick but will come when we can.

J. T. Milner

Willis J. Milner, Esq.
Milner
Pike Co.
Georgia

San Francisco My 14, 1851

My Dear father

I will write you a little about our business We have got both of those little engines on the ground all the houses built & one of them nearly put up. But we have bot an interest in another large one which we pay for in hauling it up &c we have got all of that up but two or three loads It was made in Baltimore has cast iron cogs & shaft & about as large again as ours. We will put it up about 400 yds from one at Burns. The veins are the best in the country given up all and around & if they dont pay now will and if they were in the States would average from 10 to 20 dollars pr bushel, but I dont know how they will pay here. I am down now getting some packing yarn & other fixing for finishing off with. We can get those all on work in a month at fastest & then I can tell whether I can come immediately or not. They want me to stay but if the vein pays I am going home to see you all. I can sell out any time if it pays. But if it dont I dont want to stay. We are doing our best & if we fail it wont be from a want of engergy on our part. But we dont think fail. We are satisfied we can make something from what others are doing around here. There is a great move Quartzward everybody going into it many never get out some I think

will make some money. Tell Levy the Boilers are not half large enough for the engines I had to buy another here at considerable cost. We have plenty of grass & our stock look fine & in our business will improve notwithstanding the immense amount of property destroyed in Stockton & San Francisco by fire.

You may rest assured I will come home as soon as I can. I feel like I ought to & I will make my arrangement to come. I want Benny to come home & go to school any how in the world he has made enough to pay him for this trip out &c &c & I want him to go to school altho I dont know how I could do without him. In fact I think we will all come together if you will just be contented at home & let things go on smoothly. We have several hundred tons of ore, enough to try it.

My love to all your obt. son

John T. Milner

Uncle Johny can tell you all about our locality &c. The Indians are all quiet. The United States troops are stationed amongst them & we are getting on finely in the Indain terry. Write to Stockton

Willis J. Milner
Milner, Pike Co.
Georgia

Stockton May 16th, 1851

Uncle Ed & everybody

I started yesterday with the Boiler. The wheels when I got to San Francisco were not cast since the fire they had done nothing on them & I must wait until tomorrow for them. Nat Smith is coming up. I have got the Iron, & things necessary for the Tables, & other Iron to make things. I will bring the packing India rubber & Smith will bring every thing necessary.

Those infernal casters in Francisco would not have done our work in a week or more I would like to have the boys meet us at the ranch or rather at Dry creek as we have only four mules to the boiler & they cant pull it from the ground. Besides I want another wagon under it

before I start over the hills. We will be at Dry creek on Monday night, on Tuesday I want to get to Burns.

I will bring everything.

We want Col Thomas wagons Brot our Provisions up. Tell the Col to send his wagons back as he didnt take as much of the machine as I thot, & there are provisions here to haul.

John T Milner

E. J. C. Milner

Burns

Diggins

San Francisco

May 25, 1851

My dear father Mother, sist & bro

As John M. & Benny are coming home I have concluded to send this 2 weeks letter by them. I say two weeks because I always write once in two weeks. Johny saw us all & can tell you how we look &c. & I can tell you how we think &c. I feel just like we can be able to come home in a month or two more, some of us at least. Uncle Ned can come in July then some more of us may come. *John A* speaks of coming then. I will tell you as near as I can how I am situated. We had to buy a boiler for these little engines & get casting to the amt of some three thousand dollars. We will commence pounding this week, & next letter you can know how we are going to make out in our undertaking. We are safe in our investment. That is we have sold enough to pay us for our labor & expenses & what we hold if it turns out any thing will be clear gain. In one month more I will have made up my mind to a day when I can start for home. If I fail I will know it then & if I make any thing I will also know if then so in either event it is my intention to come home to see you all. Benny is now in Stockton with our wagons getting ready to load up tomorrow when I get up with goods & freight that I have engaged to haul to the mines. He is the best boy in the whole world. He is intelligent, active good natured, the most popular boy in Cal. Not an enemy in Cal. works hard & never finds fault of Bro John or Uncle Ed if he has to drive hard & live hard for his good sense tells him & shows him that all we intend is for the best.

The girl that gets him will have to pass a very severe & scrutinizing ordeal for he will make too good a man to be trifled away. I will bring or send him home as soon as I can or as soon as he wants to come. I never know his thoughts for he never says much to me about home. But I reckon he thinks a great deal more than he speaks in every thing. I intend to give him an interest in our works if it pays & if not, I intend to pay him well for his time, which is all I can do for him in the money line,—I want him to have an education, which he ought to be getting now. He must go as far as I have at least, & if he don't get married, farther. In one month from the first of June, Uncle Ned can start home & if Benny wants he can come, he would have been starting before now but for the continuous delays. Just think of my having to ride 77 miles in 12 hours & get on a Boat & go 130 more to San Francisco to get only ten feet of copper pipe & a pound of solder, & back again in as many hours. This is my errand down now. I may have to repeat it next week, but we don't mind labor if we can only get at work, which if nothing happens we will do next week. We have a large machine to put up & we take fourth interest for hauling & putting it up. That will be no trouble however only a few days more work will put it up as we have the timbers out & all ready on the ground to put up. The cog shaft is cast Iron, & weighs 3000 pounds the Boiler 40 inches by 36 feet long a large concern yet gotten it all up ready to commence putting up in a day or two. It is our intention to sell out as soon as we can. If we make well we can sell well if not we can't. But we are more sanguine than ever, as the day draws near that will tell the story, our neighbors are making money with mule mills all around us, & Fremont Co are doing well.

Old Hayden the man that Johnny worked for has never got his machinery to work well yet. He can't save his gold. Has wore out his stamps & or rather the first knocks drove them up in the wood & he has not a cent of money to repair Moffat & Co are about entering negotiations for it. He was making about six cents per pound when he worked. But is fixing all the time having nothing in the beginning right. The next two weeks will tell the story for us however, & if I can I will let you know all about how the things goes off by the next steamer. I was glad to hear you all had got easy about our staying longer & had I not known you would become reconciled I would have come sooner, but I know you always said business first & pleasure next. Because I consider that when I quit work here it will only be a pleasure trip to me For we have every opportunity of getting home now, from 50 to 150 dollars. Yet when I get ready I will try & come some safe

way, some fear the chorlera will break out again this fall. Well if it does we will go into the mountains again & stay until it is over with or until there is no danger I did hope we could get off before October the month it came in last year. But I dont know how things may turn out But I will simply say again I will come as soon as I possibly can.

Write to Stockton

Monday Morning 26 May.

I must add a P S which will be only reiterating my promise to come home as soon as I can, say in 2 or three months. But dont look for me until you see me as things change here every day. John can tell you all about how we live & what we do &c, & everything else you may want to known about us. My love to all I will write by the mail also. Just tell old Uncle J J to write how being at home feels & whether he thinks the Pikers would let me live among them &c I am now in a great hurry for the Steamer Jenny Lind for Stockton & cant think of any thing else I wont disappoint you this time, if I can help it

Your Son & Bro

John T. Milner

Willis J. Milner

Milner, Pike Co.

Georgia

Milners Mill

Burns' diggings July 5th, 1851

My dear father Mother Sis & Bro

We have at last after innumerable delays & expenses got our mills in operation, & find out that we are not disappointed, greatly. We are now running only six Stamp here owing to the scarcity of water, which Shady Oliver & other can tell you grows continually weaker from May until September or Oct when it commences increasing even though it does not rain. We are now digging a well & are getting a plenty at only 100 & 12 feet. I intend however to go deeper. Well I can now tell you how our vein has Paid thus far at least & give you my opinion of what it will continue to pay. on Thursday 27th June commenced didnt take out ran only an hour or so on Friday pounded 30 bushels & got 2 pounds in the quick Saturday about 80 bushels & got about 750

lbs in the quick Monday pound 40 do 400 Dwh. Tuesday 50 do 580 Dwh. Wednesday (25 do 280 Dwh) Monday & Friday were the same to a dollar each about 55 bush Each 300 Dwh. Today 80 bushel, 350 Dwh. & all this besides what is necessarily in the Pounding Trough. We dont half run havent our chimney half high enough besides only make enough for six Stamps.

So you can see our first work	480
	750
You can guess how it will	400
	580
turn out. We Pound now only	280
	300
about $\frac{1}{4}$ as much as we could	300
	350

had we water a plenty.

Dwh. 3440 in the quick

One thing I am now satisfied of it will pay & thats enough for one time for I tell you we have spent a great amount of time & labor and money on these mills & would have been bad for them not to have paid.

But nobody knows the luck of a lousy calf the saying is. Cousin William will stay. Willis Smith is hauling iron and rock here at the mill, Benny & Jim Hill & Johny freighting to the lower mines & Jef learning to be Engineer under Old Nat Smith from Rome Ga. &c Uncle Ned starts his mill to day. He intended to start on the 4th but Levy didnt send any steam pipe & he had to have another made & it didnt get up until last night. We can start home in one month but dont look for us until you see us were you here & saw how we were sorrounded you would say I dont know when you can leave for home & so we do. A new Pipe today & this thing & that & tother, nobody knows until they attempt to do such work in such a country. Where a steam pipe cost 100 dollars besides expenses going & coming in all about 300 (time & all) We will make some money but if our veins had not turned out well we would have just about quit even. But now I feel like we struck it at last, a continuous thing for our Purser Rock Pays us for Pounding & we have a vein from 2 to 8 ft thick & several hundred yds long. The large mill we bot an interest in we are putting up now & will have running in a week or two. Thats the finest mill & vein in California.

It is only 3 or 4 hundred yds from this mill we will have it up soon. Uncle Nat Smith says we must start on her next week. her boiler is about 30 ft by 44 inches, & cylinder 11½ inches by 2 ft 4 inches stroke, a regular snorter, & the Rock is better than what we are beating. I now have the easiest time I ever had in my life. Ive got an office over the door in large letters "No Admittance" & I just sleep on a plank now instead of the ground, & have white sand floors worse than Ma has I have a pretty good family too, but who cares for expenses when they have got a mint in operation. Im coming just as soon as Uncle Ed can get off Continue to write

Your Son John T Milner

Note:

Post-marked:	Nevada City	10
	July 12	5
		—
		15

To

Willis J. Milner, Esq.
Milner, Pike Co., Ga.
Mis-sent & Forwarded from Mt. Yonah, Ga.

San Francisco Sep 10, 1851

My dear father

I have just written you a letter but I will send you this which I wish you to keep private entirely so, as it will give you the exact state of our affairs & from it you can Judge the reasons why we stay & for what we are staying I will give you our accounts as they stand & then comment a little on them. There is now due us from W. J. Kyle & co in Texas

	\$7500.00	
" Hastings & c	3000.00	To be paid on the 20th Sept. when Uncle Ed finish mill
" Leonard & c	7000.00	
" No. 9 at least & hay	6000.00	This is the large mill we bot here the Rock is very rich
" Wagons Teams & ranch	3000.00	

" Cash on hand	3000.00		

Total now Due us or	29500.00	We owe hands	3000.00
in our Possession	4500.00	for additional	
	-----	work on Leonard	
	25000.00	mill	1500.00
leaving us a balance of			-----
\$25000 Dollars to contend for			4500.00
& try to get. We are making		Now due by us	
some thing all the time		or will be before	
I think will be able to		we are done—We have paid	
		Cousin William & all of	
		our hands nearly, only the	
		above amt.	

The within is a true copy from our books & I am neither over nor under the mark. But it is in a shape that we are obliged to attend to it, some of it is cash, some of it in good notes so they say themselves, some to be paid on the twentieth. (3000) the balance going to Cousin William & the Boys of the 10,000 dollars. I work for all & I think they do show gratitude here, because the boys would all go through a brush heap fire for me. I think they know & see I am working for their interest as well as mine. The Kyle debt is certain he could pay us here tomorrow, & has offered to pay us. Mr. Hastings will be paid on the twentieth. If nothing happens Old Leonard wont pay until Uncle Ned finishes his work, which will be two or three weeks hence, but it is ultimately good as we have both the mill & a good house here security. No. 9. our interest is worth six thousand dollars. I was offered 3 for half this mine but on credit most of it & I had rather risk the vein than credit. We have five good wagons & Teams a good Ranch & a lot of Hay, worth five or six hundred dollars, & the whole I put down at three thousand dollars, which is not too much. Then the 3000 cash, is cash, so you see we nearly got all our affairs so we can leave them. When we finish old Leonards Mill & cover ours. But we have the frames by & the Boards & lumbr on hand, we can get ready in a short time besides the boys are bound to help us put on the roof & weather Boarding. All of them. We have a number of small chicken debts both pro & con, about even. I suppose we have paid up nearly all our hands, all our castings & everything. I can show you a book when I come home ahead of anything you ever had to cross you in all your dealings, & then you will wonder how we managed to get along even under so many disadvantages much less make anything.

Do attribute our absence to the right cause & take it easy as you can. You see how we stand exactly & can give an estimate when we will come home.

My love to all keep this letter secret my dear father until I come at least.

My love to all & look for us if we can get off in December

Continue to write yours
would be if possible obt son J. T. Milner

Keep this private not that I dont want Ma & sis & rest to know for I want them to know, but I want it all kept dark, for there has so many reports gone home I dont want any more to be originated. I just want you who are alone interested in our welfare to see & know exactly how we are doing & what.

Quartsburg Oct 14th 1851

My dear Mother

I recd your of the 31st yesterday & hasten a reply. Today I am doing just what I have been for several weeks viz settling up & getting ready to come home. I have sold out everything except 2 wagons & Teams & a small interest in a large machine I have here, which I don't intend to sell. I sold or rather give out my ranch & part of my teams to Cousin Billy, Jef. & Jim Hill, yesterday. We have paid Cousin W. T. nearly two thousand dollars for his two years work & the other boys accordingly, & they are going to put up a large trading Establishment here in this valley. Uncle Ned & I have agreed to furnish them the lumber to build their house & let them have 1300 or two thousand dollars worth of groceries &c. & they now have four thousand dollars worth, which will make their stock about six thousand dollars. besides two wagons & house and will leave them a good name & credit, & if they cant succeed they aint no account at all, & our only difficulty now consists in being able to collect our debts now due. Uncle Ned will go to San Francisco next week & if he succeeds & gets our money as is promised us, we will be ready to start home soon. We have been bothered about a mill Uncle Ed put up for some gents here about three months. They would not receive it & he has had to lick his calf over again & expend nearly 2 thousand dollars more on it & now is going down to get his pay which if he succeeds in doing we can start home

in two or three weeks as we have nothing else now to do. We have only two wagons & Benny & Johny are driving them & frolicking about until we get ready. for Home, sweet Home, but I tell you it looks like a hard chance to blow off so soon & so much gold here in this valley but home I will come make a break.

We are out of debt & ahead of the hounds but I tell you I have had a hard time of it here & Uncle Ned above insomuch that I have concluded a little rest wont put me back much. I want to start home as soon as we can, & I tell you it will only be because we cant come that we dont, yet I never was better satisfied with the country & its prospects than now, & especially this valley. There will be six or eight large pounding mills here in a few months, besides diggings &c. Mexicans dogs & (women Mexican) "Muchas." In fact a perfect city, & I could now start with it, & go ahead, but I am now bent on home. We enjoy ourselves here very much indeed, never take things much to heart if I happen to loose one thousand or fifteen hundred dollars I find it is gone as was the cast last week. We dont mourn much but let it go, say better luck next time & push along keep moving. We have made two or three fortunes this year & last but have been compelled to loose and spend a great deal Just think of the cost of hauling into the Sierra Nevada Mountains & putting up three mills one of them as large again as Pa's saw mill. Then we have to pay carpenter from 150 to 250 dollars per month, when Pa can get them for from 15 to 25 dollars common negroes such as old Sam & Steve & old Ben 150 & they board themselves. Teamsters from 75 to 125 & 1 dollar for every meal we eat & tell old Ben & coook fifty cents per bushel for coal. All this we have done have paid our debts & if we get our dues we will be well paid for coming to California. We have had a faithful set of boys & I believe they all consider us in the same light, we have satisfied them all & as Pa always does we have overdone the thing to them, for fear there might be some fly or murmur Rather than which I would beg my passage home. Benny the noblest & best boy in the whole world is well & hearty lively & cheerful & does everything just as Bro John & Uncle Ned says *John* A. is an exception that he would be wild, but he is only cheerful & a more correct boy & more straightforward one dont live in sight of Parent or in Cal. He respects Uncle Ned Cousin W & myself as much as he does or can Uncle Pitt. I never have said a cross word to him & he always does what I say cheerfully. It is the same with Willis. He has changed more this year than any boy you know or ever saw. He is growing to ba a man. He is less boyish than either the other boys Jef not excepted. He is getting pretty old & will be a man soon, but he is

to cousin W precisely what Benny is to me. I see in this country now the benefit of correct training, for if these boys had not been taught to respect us as their elders, they would probably now been wild. But as it is they are just right now. In fact I couldnt alter them to suit me better.

DEDICATION OF THE JOHN T. MILNER BRIDGE

December 12, 1929

Address by General R. E. Steiner

As a boy, I lived in Greenville, Alabama, where Colonel John T. Milner then lived, and as a boy, I first knew him, and until his death, my admiration and respect continued and increased.

When I learned that the pleasure would be mine to voice, in a feeble way, a tribute to the memory of the man for whom this Bridge is named, I wondered how I could speak of him fairly and faithfully within an allotted time. It were much easier to write pages and pages of his life's efforts, achievements, and successes than to select the outstanding incidents only that time and the occasion compels me to speak of today.

Born in Pike County, Georgia, September 29, 1826, he died in Birmingham August 18, 1898, and from a very early age, these years were useful, strenuous, exciting and devoted to the bettering of the condition of his State and Nation.

Colonel Milner was of prominent ancestry, and was afforded educational advantages that a well-to-do father approved, required and could give, and thus he was able to attend for three years the University of Georgia, the best seat of learning available to him. His father expected him to be a lawyer, and with this Colonel Milner was sympathetic, but quite soon, both he and his father realized that he had an unusual mathematical turn, and in fact was a born engineer, needing only the opportunity to practice and develop. President Andrew Jackson's fight against State Banks so affected the finances of Colonel Milner's father about the time of his entrance into the University of Georgia, that his first year's expenses at the University were obtained from Colonel Milner's first mining experience. John T. Milner had a little negro all his own, named Steve, who followed him about "like a shadow".

Colonel Milner's father was experimenting in North Georgia in what was then called a gold mine, and he told his son, John T., that if he and his little negroes should strike gold there, that he could go to College. The boy, with a few of the Milner slaves, went to work, dug through a very deep alluvial deposit, and found the pay-streak. College was then open to him.

After leaving the University of Georgia, Colonel Milner definitely decided upon engineering, and his next experience was with Mr. George H. Hazelhurst, a distinguished Engineer, then building the railroad from Columbus to Macon, now a part of the Central of Georgia Railway Company.

The "Forties" of the last Century called to him, and still under twenty-one years of age, he joined a cavalcade of covered wagons from Georgia to Oregon, California, and the unknown West, taking his turn as a driver of the ox teams. A dangerous and arduous journey—a trail marked by bones of men and animals, and infested with savage Indians. This over-land trip restored Colonel Milner's health, and enabled him to undergo and even enjoy the hardships of the life that confronted him.

He met General Riley, then Provisional Governor of California, and by appointment of General Riley, Colonel Milner performed the duties of a Surveyor General. He constructed the first Stamp Mill erected in California, extracted the first gold at what afterwards became Georgetown, Colorado. This Western experience was of great value to Colonel Milner. He learned to speak Spanish fluently, which, together with a good knowledge of Latin acquired in his earlier days, was of invaluable assistance. He had many close shaves, among them, with the aid of a friend, but with great difficulty, he successfully insisted that he be not buried, but those who were carrying him to the cemetery, when remonstrated with by Colonel Milner and his friend, replied that they thought he would be dead by the time they got him to the cemetery.

Deciding to return home, he was persuaded to take the trip via Isthmus of Panama, where Major Childs, of the United States Army, was then at work surveying for the United States, and he desired John T. Milner's assistance. Major Childs' report must have been unfavorable, as we next find the Isthmus of Panama Canal effort in the hands of that great French Engineer, DeLesseps. This experience and subsequent study convinced Colonel Milner that the route through Nicaragua was the better for a canal, and it is said that our grand old Senator

from Alabama, John T. Morgan, had such respect and confidence in Milner's ability as an engineer, and in his wisdom and integrity, and from his own studies and researches, that he chose and advocated the Nicaraguan route rather than the Panama, and Senator Morgan's position was approved by the United States Engineers, but was combatted and over-ridden by Theodore Roosevelt.

Some of you will yet see Senator Morgan's and Colonel Milner's preference as an established fact.

Upon his return to the States, Colonel Milner visited one of the railroad construction camps belonging to his father. Railroad engineering was not then the finished science that we now know, and a reverse curve could not be laid out by every engineer. At this camp, the President of the Railroad under construction happened to be present, and was strenuously expressing his opinion about an engineer who had for some time tried to put in the reverse curve and failed. Introducing himself to the President, Colonel Milner offered to put, and did put in the curve, quickly and well, and from that day until he voluntarily retired, was connected with some railroad in Alabama.

Under an Act of the Legislature of Alabama of 1858, John T. Milner was commissioned by Governor Moore to survey and locate a railroad to connect the navigable waters of the Alabama River to the Navigable waters of the Tennessee River, and today, this survey and location from Montgomery to Decatur is one of the main stems of the great Louisville & Nashville Railway System. The location and survey, while difficult, was the easiest part of his labors. He was Chief Engineer and General Superintendent of the Railroad. The construction of this railroad was the great work of his life.

Civil War intervened, and Colonel Milner was needed by his Country, the Confederate States. His services were devoted to her cause, and history again recounts his great, untiring and patriotic labor. Long after the war, a Federal General, who had possession of part of the railroad running from Montgomery South, in conversation with one of Colonel Milner's daughters, expressed deep curiosity as to what had become of the cotton that he knew had been stored in Montgomery, and had not gone out over the railroad. He was informed by this young lady that her father was not only a railroad engineer, but a boat-building engineer, and it was in this way the cotton escaped the Federal Troops.

Colonel Milner's work in locating the South and North Alabama Railroad developed Graces Gap as the most feasible way, and the only way, without prohibitive tunnelling, for a railroad leading South from Birmingham, but more, and a great deal more, was unfolded, with the help of Professor Michael Toumey,—the vast mineral wealth of what is now the Birmingham District.

It would take a book to detail the work of building the railroad through the Birmingham District, the over-coming of obstacles almost insurmountable, combating trickery, deceit and dishonesty of Stanton and others, that at times were enough to shake the stoutest heart, but we all now know the answer—an Imperial City, a great railroad, a fabulously rich district, a tribute to the great foresight, character and almost super-energy and ability of John T. Milner and others, who labored faithfully, as did he.

Another book would not be sufficient to tell of his efforts in assisting in the founding and building of the City of Birmingham. In this effort, it was always his pleasure and fairness to stay in the background, and give great credit to the wonderful assistance of his friend, Josiah Morris, of Montgomery, without whose financial backing and equally strong confidence in the future, the birth of the City of Birmingham would have been delayed. On December 19, 1870, Colonel Milner was present in Montgomery when Josiah Morris bought and paid for 4150 acres of land, and on the following day, the incorporation papers were filed for what became the Elyton Land Company, the purpose being stated in the papers "to build a city at or near the Town of Elyton".

Colonel John R. Powell, the "Duke of Birmingham", Mr. Frank Gilmer, Dr. H. M. Caldwell, and a few others, were in the circle of those inspired with prophetic vision, and they, too, did more than prophesy. They were of those who built Birmingham and developed the mineral district.

It would not be fair to fail to give credit to many others to whom credit is due, but this cannot be done on this occasion, but I cannot refrain, in speaking of the Birmingham District, and the City of Birmingham, from referring to the fact that this development required railroads, with long and short, railroad equipment and thousands of dollars of money that it was impossible to obtain in Alabama. In the construction of the South and North Alabama Railroad, Colonel Milner

had become acquainted with and made friends of the officials of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company, and among them, that great Captain of railroad building and railroad operation, Mr. Milton H. Smith. It was Mr. Smith's confidence in Colonel Milner, and confidence in the future of the mineral district, and his true prophetic vision, that caused the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Company to pour into Birmingham and the mineral district the money needed for its development from a railroad standpoint, a thing but few railroad Presidents, and fewer railroads, would have done, and while, by men now living, proper honor and credit is given to Milton H. Smith, still, the State of Alabama should remember him as one of the greatest developers of the State; a developer who promoted not only the mineral riches, but the agricultural, timber interests, and all other natural wealth of Alabama. Men like James J. Hill and Milton H. Smith have been few.

In 1876, Colonel Milner published his book entitled "Alabama As It Was, As It Is, and As It Will Be". We find in this book, inserted by the Printer, a little note credited to one of Colonel Milner's little grand-daughters, Miss Bessie Milner, in which she said: "Grandfather always had a rather curious and remarkable dream sense. He could visualize strangely, and see things in the dark". Those of us now living can see the truth of Miss Milner's statement.

Water transportation from the Mineral District to Mobile is young in years, but prior to 1876, referring to this transportation, Colonel Milner said: "If water transportation is ever needed from the Mineral District to the Gulf, the Warrior and Cahaba Rivers cutting as they do so deeply and smoothly in the strata, can be easily improved. The water in the river opposite Blount Springs is only one hundred feet above water-level at Tuscaloosa". He then gave the elevation at Tuscaloosa, and added: "such a basis for slack-water navigation is unknown in any mineral region in the world". There may be some who still think that the idea of navigation from Birmingham to Mobile originated with them. Many equally remarkable predictions and prophecies can be found in this work published more than fifty years ago.

Time will not permit to make more than casual reference to Colonel Milner's opening and developing the coal mines at Coalburg and New Castle. These were extensive operations in those days.

I must, however, make mention of Colonel Milner's pioneering in the lumber industry. In partnership with Doctor Caldwell, who has

been referred to heretofore, and with that remarkable Flowers family, under the name of Milner, Caldwell & Flowers, one of the largest and best paying lumber enterprises was launched, and successfully operated for many years at Bolling, near Greenville, Alabama. The success of this enterprise was largely due to the Flowers family, who were in direct and sole charge of its operation.

Colonel Milner cared nothing for political preferment, but late in life, he permitted the Senatorial District in which he lived to elect him a member of the State Senate of Alabama, where he was immediately recognized for what he was, one of the great men of the State. I cannot take your time to refer to more than one incident while he was a Senator in the State Legislature. In 1893, a resolution was introduced in the Senate of Alabama to make an appropriation to provide for the collection, arrangement and display of products of the State at the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago. Senator Milner objected to the passage of this resolution, and in explanation of his objection, he said:

“Mr. President:

We are confronted now by the passage of what is termed a force bill by the Federal Congress at Washington. This measure, in my judgment, is an attempt by the political department of the Federal Government to degrade the political department of the State Government of Alabama. The people of my district are anxious to be represented at the Columbian Exhibition at Chicago, but I cannot recommend our State to so undignify herself as a State around the festive board at Chicago with her sister States with the mask of infamy placed on her brow by the Federal Government in the passage of the Force Bill.

Mr. President — In 1876, the Centennial Exposition of American Independence was arranged to be held at Philadelphia. The States of the Union were invited to be present and to participate in the proceedings.

In August, 1874, the people of Alabama succeeded in overthrowing the carpet bag element and succeeded in electing that grand old man, George S. Houston, as Governor, and a Legislature composed of the wisest and best men of the State.

In 1875, in the exuberance of our spirits on account of our political delivery from the control of strangers, and with a desire to join in the grand celebration, the Legislature passed a bill electing the commissioners to represent the State in its corporate capacity at Philadelphia. Honorable Peter Hamilton, the Senator from Mobile; Hon. R. O. Pickett, of Florence; Hon. W. H. Barnes, from Lee; Mr. Kennedy, of Tuscaloosa, and myself were elected as commissioners. I, as the Chairman, was actively engaged in the preparations for our being properly represented. The amount to be appropriated by the State was unanimously agreed upon in the House Committee.

Suddenly, the Force Bill of 1875 was taken up in Congress, and every effort was made to pass it. Our grand old Governor, and the Legislature stood appalled. The effort to pass the infamous measure fell like a wet blanket on the new and springy hopes of our people. The Legislature for two weeks met daily, and adjourned without transacting any business at all. The appropriation Committee failed to make their report. Finally, Senator Hamilton, from Mobile, one of the Commissioners elect, stated in his place in the Senate that the Commissioners could only appear at Philadelphia in the habiliments of woe, and in sackcloth and ashes if the Force Bill became a law. So now, Mr. President, Although representing, as I do, on this floor, the great mineral interests of Alabama, I cannot vote to undignify the State of Alabama by requiring her to appear in her corporate capacity around a festive board, where the brand of infamy and degradation has been placed on her brow by the Federal Government of the United States by the passage of the Force Bill, now pending at Washington. I would move, sir, as a substitute to the motion of the Senator from Madison, to refer this Bill to the Committee on Federal Relations, that it be laid on the table without reference, and that 74 copies be printed."

and it was so ordered.

It must not be understood by you that most of the incidents that I have here spoken of have originated with me, but rather have been learned from the reading of the various histories and accounts written of Colonel Milner, and of these, there are many, of which fact his friends and family should be extremely proud.

Colonel Milner married on December 30, 1855, in Greenville, Alabama Miss Flora I. Caldwell, daughter of John Caruthers and Elizabeth Black Caldwell. Four children were born to this union: Henry Willis Milner, still living; Bessie (Mrs. Howard Douglas), now deceased; Lillian (Mrs. C. P. Orr), still living; and Florrie (Mrs. James Weatherly), now deceased. Children born to this distinguished and useful couple, and their children, have faithfully cherished the heritage bequeathed to them.

ALABAMA NEWSPAPER MOTTOES FROM 1865 to 1900

by

William Warren Rogers

Alabama journalism has never been rigidly formal or stylized. Rarely has an editor assumed a posturing role of condescension to his readers. Instead, newspapers in Alabama have been consistent spokesmen for both the virtues and failings of the people. In 1866 the *Athens Post*, aware of the stringency of the times, announced "Anything that will aid in keeping house will be cheerfully received for our paper. Such as firewood, butter, eggs, fowls, meat, meal, etc . . ."¹ Such newspapers became inextricably bound with the lives and interests of the people they served. This relationship held through the decades of good and bad times, mostly bad from an economic point of view, and the typical editor spent more time attempting to collect from old readers than he did in trying to increase circulation. Despite the grim years between the Civil War and 1900, there were compensating humorous moments. In 1875 the editor of the *Wetumpka Constitution* offered a year's subscription to his paper in return for a good dog.² Usually the exchange of newspapers for something other than money involved bartering for farm produce. At Brewton in 1888 a hungry Escambia County editor offered to send the *Standard Guage* free for a year to anyone bringing him half a bushel of scuppernongs;³ in 1891 the *Geneva Record* was obtainable for six months in return for the first watermelon of the season or a half-dozen ripe peaches.⁴

Before 1900 Alabama was a predominantly rural state, and its chief sources of revenue were derived from agricultural products. Except for Birmingham, Mobile and Montgomery not a city in Alabama had a population of 10,000 people before the turn of the century. Although the state lacked urbanity, its citizens were kept current on topics of the day by a sprightly and readable group of newspapers. With the exception of a few metropolitan dailies, these journals were weekly publications usually edited in the various county seats. These newspapers were individualistic and many boasted iconoclastic editors

1 *Athens Post*, January 6, 1866.

2 Quoted in *Marion Commonwealth*, April 22, 1875.

3 *Brewton Standard Guage*, August 9, 1888.

4 *Geneva Record*, September 30, 1891.

whose fame extended throughout the South.⁵ Yet the primary object of these weeklies was, as it is today, to inform its readers of local happenings, and then if space were available to present state and national news.

Many newspapers used mottoes to express their philosophy. A newspaper's slogan was usually prominently displayed on page one directly beneath the paper's name. The motto selected set the tone of the paper and served as a statement of belief for the paper's editor. The weeklies that did not use a motto were as capably edited as those that did, but mottoes added color and were widely used. One newspaper that took exception to the use of slogans was the *Troy Messenger*. Particularly abhorrent to the *Messenger* was the use of Latin mottoes. The *Messenger's* editor wrote that a journal would do better to have no legend at all if ". . . the English language is too poor to furnish a suitable sentiment for a paper printed in that language and read entirely by English speaking subscribers . . ."⁶ Undeterred by such criticism several Alabama papers graced their front pages with Latin phrases. The *Alabama Reporter* at Talladega held forth for "Justitia et Veritas," and at Opelika the *Progressive Age* believed "Labor Omnia Vincet." The Opelika *Times* had as its motto the Latin legend "Salus Populi, Suprema Est Lex," and in 1874 the *Tuskegee Weekly News* asserted "Hoc Facias Alteri, Quod Tibi Vis Fieri." The venerable North Alabama newspaper, the *Moulton Advertiser*, abandoned its slogan of "Education And A Free Press, The Fulcrum And Lever That Move The Wolrld" used in the 1860's adopted in 1873 the indomitable phrase "Nil Desperandum." Preferring the Gallic touch, the *Camden Wilcox Vindicator* used the maxim "Verite Sans Peur." These Latin and French phrases expressed the sentiments of the editors

⁵ In this category might be placed W. W. Screws of the *Montgomery Advertiser*, Robert McKee of the *Selma Argus*, William D. Jelks of the *Eufaula Times*, Joseph Hodgson of the *Montgomery Mail*, Frank Baltzell of the *Troy Enquirer* and *Alliance Herald*, James B. Stanley of the *Greenville Advocate*, and D. C. and Jourd White of the *Moulton Advertiser*.

⁶ *Troy Messenger*, May 8, 1873.

and it was in the Southern tradition to admire and use the classical languages.⁷

Inevitably Alabama newspapers frequently had the same slogans. In the 1870's a Tuscaloosa newspaper, the *Weekly Blade*, advised its readers to "Be Just And Fear Not." In the 1880's the Tuscaloosa *Gazette* and the *Coosa River News* of Centre in Cherokee County used this same motto. In 1870 the *Independent Monitor* at Tuscaloosa and in 1875 the *North Alabamian* at Tuscumbia voiced their journalistic creed with "Here Shall The Press The People's Rights Maintain;—Unawed By Influence, And Unbribed By Gain."⁸ The *Independent Monitor* as edited by Ryland Randolph was the most violent critic of the military occupation in the years immediately after the Civil War. Its motto before it was changed is indicative of the editor's point of view: "The White Man—Right or Wrong—Still the White Man!" Randolph's strictures on the military and carpetbagger administration resulted in the suppression of the paper from June 23 to July 14, 1868.⁹ Some of Randolph's utterances were so vitriolic that even Democrats found them extreme. One objector wrote, "The *Monitor* by its wild, mad policy has misrepresented the party it professed to act with."¹⁰ Yet the practice of heaping abuse on the Republicans was quite common in Alabama journalism. When the Talladega *Mountain Home* began espousing the Republican cause in 1873, the *Shelby Guide* advised the *Mountain's* editors ". . . to immediately invest five cents in strychnine."¹¹

Politics was the chief topic of discussion for the Alabama press. The majority of the journals were staunchly Democratic in political faith.

7 In the order quoted these mottoes may be translated as follows: Justice and Truth; Work Conquers All Things; The Law Is The Ultimate Safety Of The People; May You do This To Another Which You Wish To Be Done To You; Don't Give Up Hope; and Truth Without Fear.

8 The latter paper was called the *North Alabamian and Times* in 1873 and had as its slogan, "Truth Crushed To Earth Will Rise Again."

9 Rhoda Coleman Ellison, *History and Bibliography of Alabama Newspapers in the Nineteenth Century* (University, Alabama, 1954), p. 183.

10 *Columbiana Shelby Guide*, May 3, 1870.

11 *Columbiana Shelby Guide*, January 30, 1873.

However, during the era of Reconstruction there were several Republican newspapers, and in the decade before 1900 Populist papers were quite numerous. The Republican press was best represented by the ably edited and influential *Alabama State Journal* published at Montgomery. As the state organ for the Republicans, it recognized its responsibility in the slogan "The Union of our forefathers, Peace and Prosperity to all men."¹² As might be expected quotations from the sayings of Lincoln and Grant were liberally employed. The *East Alabama Monitor* of Opelika used Lincoln's statement, "With Malice Towards None, With Charity For All, and Firmness In The Right." Grant's famous pronouncement, "Let Us Have Peace," became a clarion cry for such Republican organs as the *Olive Branch* (certainly a peaceful name!) at Selma and the *Demopolis Southern Republican*. In contrast and more in keeping with the vindictive spirit of the times was the *Union Republican's* slogan. This Opelika paper declared itself, "Republican at all Times, and under all circumstances." These Republican newspapers flourished from 1865 to 1874 but died out, with few exceptions, after the Democrats regained control of the state government.

After the state was restored the Democratic press, with the exception of the occasional apostacy of a greenback or independent weekly, was unchallenged in Alabama until the late 1880's. Then began perhaps the most turbulent era in Alabama history. In this period the Farmers' Alliance evolved into the People's or Populist party; in Alabama this party was also known as the Jeffersonian Party in the campaigns of 1892 and 1894. The stormy decade saw the emergence of a relatively short-lived but extremely disputatious number of newspapers whose editors proclaimed the agrarian cause. These Populist journals referred to themselves collectively as the "Reform Press." At Troy the *Jeffersonian* plead for "Honest Elections; A Free Vote And A Fair Count." The *Free Press* at Ozark had "For The Public Good" for its motto, while at Butler the *Choctaw Alliance* declared itself "For The People And By The People." At Centreville in Bibb County the *People's Reflector* believed "The People Must Govern Their Country." One of the later Populist papers was the *Alabama Monitor* published in 1896 at Montgomery. Edited by Frank Baltzell, who had formerly edited the state organ for the party, the *Alliance Herald*, the *Monitor* held rigidly to the precept "Equal Rights To All, Special Privileges To None." Reuben F. Kolb, the leader of the

¹² This same motto was adopted in 1870 at Opelika by the *Tri Weekly Era and Whig*.

Populists, edited the Birmingham People's *Tribune*, but his slogan was the uninspired phrase, "Boom the Tribune. It will help you." These Populist newspapers were greatly outnumbered by the Democratic papers but they were never editorially intimidated. For the most part the Democratic press was more restrained, although the Marengo Democrat replied in kind to the Populists with its affirmation of "Democracy—without Prefixes or Suffixes." After 1896 the Populists began returning to the Democratic fold and their papers died out.

In Alabama the press was not completely politically inspired and secular. There was an active religious press. It was said that the *Primitive Baptist* published at Troy was the only paper in the state that contained no advertisements.¹³ Logically enough, the church papers expressed their principles in a religious manner. Montgomey's *Alabama Baptist* believed in "Speaking The Truth In Love." The *Universalist Herald* at Notasulga in Lee County used the statement, "He will not always chide; neither will He keep His anger forever." Although the Methodist *Alabama Christian Advocate* has no motto, the Birmingham *Methodist* was "Published Monthly in the Interests of Christian Education, Missions and Church Extension." In Selma the *Counsellor* had the unusual slogan, "I counsel thee to buy of me Gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich."¹⁴ Most of the churches had some kind of publication to forward their particular creeds.

The mottoes used by the newspapers varied in length as well as sentiment. At Grove Hill the *Clarke County Democrat* lengthily trumpeted "The Liberty of the Press, and the Liberty of the People, must stand or fall together." This expression was exchanged in 1891 for the even more extended "Free Trade, Low Duties, no Debt; Separation from Banks; Economy, Retrenchment; and a Strict Adherence to the Constitution—Jno C. Calhoun."¹⁵ Equally long were the mottoes of the *Choctaw Herald* at Butler which was "Weekly Newspaper, Devoted to Agriculture, Literature, Science and the General Political News of the Day;" and the *Alabama Beacon* at Greensboro, "A Weekly Newspaper, Devoted to Agriculture, Politics, General Literature and the News of the Day." In sharp contrast was the *Standard Gauge* at Brewton with its terse slogan

13 *Columbiana Shelby Sentinel*, February 26, 1880.

14 *Troy Messenger*, May 8, 1873, lists paper but does not give its denominational sponsor

15 This was shortened in 1892 to "Democracy, Temperance, Morality."

"Courageously—Honorably." The irreducible minimum was reached when the *Geneva County Citizen* adopted "Excelsior!" as its motto.

Almost without exception the Alabama weeklies were conditioned by regionalism, a point of view reflected in some of the mottoes adopted and limited only by what a particular editor considered his geographical obligation to be. At Eufaula the *Weekly Times* in 1873 mixed geography with philosophy by proclaiming, "The Hope of the South is in the South herself." This sentiment was expressed slightly differently by the *Clarke County Journal*,¹⁶ which was "Devoted To The Rights And Interests Of The South, Under The Constiution And Laws." The area was narrowed at Ozark by the *Southern Star* which was "Devoted to the Interest of Southeast Alabama," and by the *South Alabamian* in neighboring Geneva, which was "Devoted to the interest of the Wiregrass Regions." Butler had the most provincial paper of all in the *Courier*, a publication "Devoted to the Interests of Choctaw County."

The largest number of newspapers avoided controversy in their slogans. The Forkland *Progress* of Greene County desired "Prosperity To All," and the Brewton *Banner* avoided criticism when it proclaimed itself "The Advocate of Peace, Good Order and A Grander Development." The Marion *Standard* in Perry County advocated "Wisdom, Justice, Moderation," and the Opelika *Democrat* favored "Peace—Progress—Unity.—Democracy."¹⁷ A paper such as the *Tri-Weekly New Era* at Opelika which announced itself "Independent In All Things—Neutral In Nothing," was an exception. Most of the papers adopted slogans like the *Wilcox Progress* at Camden whose maxim was the indisputable "Agriculture Is The Basis Of Wealth." A prime example of a slogan of universal good will was that of the *Lauderdale Times* at Florence which held aloft the words "Our Community, Our County, Our State, Our Country."

Regardless of the motto adopted by any particular Alabama newspaper—whether it advocated a political party, promoted a church, adver-

16 On November 22, 1866, this newspaper was renamed the *Clarke ty Democrat*.

17 Other papers in this category were: Newton *Messenger*, "Practical Knowledge Is The Stepping-Stone to High Position;" Centreville *Bibb County Blade*, "Mind, Muscle and Pluck" (1882), and "Peace, Harmony and Good Will" (1888); Columbiana *Shelby Sentinel*, "Hew to the Line, Let the Chips fall Where they May;" and Wetumpka *Elmore Republican*, "Truth is mighty and will prevail."

tised a region or merely voiced a platitude—the chances were that the paper was aggressively independent and protective of its rights. In 1887 the Huntsville *Mercury* editorialized that the press of Alabama was free from “the rule and control of individual cliques, coteries of men who seek through the columns of a newspaper to advance their own selfish purposes.”¹⁸ Undoubtedly this was true, and in a widely reprinted article the Tuskegee *Weekly News* asserted that the “. . . country press is the power that moves the people, that forms and controls public sentiment.”¹⁹ This was an accurate estimate of the importance of Alabama newspapers after the Civil War.

18 Quoted in Seale *Russell Register*, October 20, 1887.

19 Tuskegee *Weekly News*, April 21, 1881.

THE WESTERN BOUNDARY LINE OF ALABAMA*

*A Comment**By Peter A. Brannon*

Recent interest in what constitutes the Western Boundary Line of Alabama and why it is so fixed has prompted at least two pertinent statements — one made by a well qualified surveyor that the line cannot be positively established on the basis of the original survey as the field notes for that section of the line, south of the "Northwest corner of Washington County as then constituted," have been long since burned. Another surveyor says the wording of the law fixing the line is so indefinite that no good surveyor could understand it. There may be grounds on the basis of physical evidence for individual conclusions of this character, but it would seem that a strict interpretation of the intent of the convention makers of this line would render the possibility of its determination not so very difficult. No Alabama documents to say that the original field notes were burned have been found.

Shortly after 1800 there arose differences between the settlers in the Eastern and Western sections of the Territory, and before 1810 they were arguing whether there should be one State to include all of the country admitted, or should the region be divided and two States made of the Mississippi Territory. In 1817 Congress passed an Act to erect the State of Mississippi and the Territory of Alabama, and apparently there was only a tentative line of division between the two until the Enabling Act to set up the State of Alabama was passed in 1819¹ when a survey was directed. Broadly termed, it is in two parts (three actually)—the line from the mouth of Bear Creek to the Northwest corner of Washington County, and a line from thence to the Gulf of Mexico. Then, we must note the short distance from the point where the Thirty Fifth parallel of Latitude crosses The Tennessee River, up along the West bank of the River to the mouth of Bear Creek, to start the line to the point where the "Great Trading Path into the Indian Nation" crossed the old Choctaw boundary line, which was the Northwest corner of Washington County.

1,3- U. S. Statutes-at-Large, 608

*This paper prepared originally but never used for publication in a Historical Journal was read as a Thirteen Paper on October 3, 1957.

Constitutional Boundary

The Congress of the United States on March 2, 1819 passed the Enabling Act to permit the people of the Alabama Territory to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the admission of such State into the Union. The second and third sections of the Act read:

"Section 2. *And be it further enacted*, That the said State shall consist of all the territory included within the following boundaries, to-wit: Beginning at the point where the Thirty-First Degree of North Latitude intersects the Perdido River, thence east, to the western boundary line of the State of Georgia, thence along said line to the southern boundary line of the State of Tennessee, thence west along said boundary line to the Tennessee River, thence up the same to the mouth of Bear Creek, thence by a direct line to the Northwest corner of Washington County, thence due south to the Gulf of Mexico, thence eastwardly, including all islands within six leagues of the shore, to the Perdido River, thence up same to the beginning."

"Section 3. *And be it further enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the surveyors of the lands of the United States south of the State of Tennessee and the surveyor of the public lands in the Alabama Territory, to run, and cut out the line of demarcation, between the State of Mississippi and the State to be formed of the Alabama Territory; and if it should appear to said surveyors that so much of said line designated in the preceding section running due South, from the northwest corner of Washington County to the Gulf of Mexico, will encroach on the Counties of Wayne, Green, or Jackson, in said State of Mississippi, then the same shall be so altered as to run in a direct line from the northwest corner of Washington County to a point on the Gulf of Mexico ten miles east of the mouth of the River Pascagoula."

The fact that the field notes for the southern section of the line of division were burned in 1821 or 1822 has not been proven to me, but I have never seen them in the Alabama records. F. W. Mondell, who was serving as United States Commissioner of the Land Office in 1898, advised Congressman John H. Bankhead (who inquired in behalf of the Alabama Historical Society) that he (Mondell) could supply him with a map of "that part of the said boundary line from the Choctaw boundary, south to the Gulf of Mexico, made under the direction of Thomas Free-

man," for the sum of \$9.10. ² He did not say there were any field notes for this section, but he offered to send a copy of the letter from Thomas Freeman dated September 30, 1820 to the Commissioner, transmitting the map, so there must be an official map of the line. The Alabama Historical Society did not send the money to have the certified transcripts made.

The Line as Run

The Alabama Constitution of 1819 says the western boundary of the State is — at that locality — "from the northwest corner of Washington County — due south to the Gulf of Mexico." ³ The Constitution of 1861 says, "thence by a direct line to the northwest corner of Washington County in this State as originally formed, thence southerly along the line of Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico." ⁴

Note the change in wording. Commissioner Mondell explained the fact that the line ran "southeast" instead of "due south," as the Alabama law says, by "the discretion given the surveyors in the third section of the Enabling Act."

There is nothing in the Alabama records to show that the surveyors exercised the discretion given them, but if you will go into the Mississippi records you will find that in 1837 that State reestablished its boundaries. Through finding the eastern Mississippi State line you may find the western line of Alabama.

Quoting Rowland ⁵ for the sake of history, "Thomas Freeman, surveyor-general for Mississippi, and Gen. John Coffee, surveyor-general for Alabama district, met and determined the Washington County corner in 1820, and George Dougherty, under the direction of Freeman, ran an experimental line 105½ miles south, reaching salt water near the mouth of Pascagoula. He then marked a point ten miles east of that river, and ran the permanent line back to the beginning. His bearing westward as he ran north was 10° 40', in which he figured the magnetic variation from true north as 2° 40,' but subsequent surveyors (1841) put

²Alabama-Mississippi Boundary, Bankhead, John H., PUBLICATIONS ALABAMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, Vol. II, pps 90-94.

³Constitution of Alabama, 1819, Preamble

⁴Constitution of Alabama, 1861, Preamble

⁵Encyclopedia of Mississippi History, Rowland, Dunbar, Vol. I pp. 271

the variation from true north as $2^{\circ} 30'$. Dougherty finished his line July 19, 1820. It was partly retraced by John B. Peyton, under the direction of Levin Wailes, surveyor-general, in 1823, and from Grand Gulf north by Julius Monet and Elihu Carver in 1841.

"The line north of Washington County, to the Tennessee River, was run by James W. Exum, under the direction of Gen. John Coffee.

"Harper's geological report (1857) says that the north end of the Alabama-Mississippi line bears north 15° east, and the south end, south $15^{\circ} 25'$ east (as quoted, Publs. M. H. Soc., VIII, 326). This is incorrect. The line north of the Washington County corner is marked on the United States survey of the State (Records State land office) as bearing north $6^{\circ} 17'$ east. Governor Poindexter said, in his message of January, 1821: 'The commissioners appointed, under the authority of the United States, to run the boundary line between this State and Alabama, have, I am informed, finished that work.'"

This, it seems, explains in enough detail, the "southeast" contrary to the "due south" direction of the line from the Washington County corner, from the Mississippi viewpoint.

The Mississippi State Code of 1840 makes no change from the 1817 statement of boundaries (*carrying the words south to the Gulf*), but the 1875 issue says "thence in a direct line to a point ten miles east of the Pascagoula River." An annotation in the 1857 code gives the information of an 1837 commission of three men from Mississippi and two from Tennessee named to run the line between Tennessee and Mississippi. The current Code carries a note reference to this, and the statement, "See historical sketch on the subject of boundaries of State by Judges Sharkey, Ellett and William L. Harris."

The "subsequent survey"—mentioned by Rowland and dated 1841—figures a magnetic variation and apparently fixes an assumed permanency to the line, and it is on the basis of this that the southeast line south exists.

An Interpretation

Soil surveyors and contract surveyors in running property lines, must fix the starting point by field notes and legal descriptions so far as exist, and then run to "corners" and "posts" and "oaktrees," and other

originally found points, but it would seem that in the case of a State line the original (or subsequent) Congressional intent must be declared as the legal line. In which case as Mississippi exercised that discretionary power given to not put too much of Wayne, Greene, and Jackson Counties, Mississippi into Alabama, by running the line to a point "ten miles east of the mouth of Pascagoula River," then these two "straight lines" are all we need to run to fix the official line. Historical indications are that they started at the Gulf and ran to the northwest corner of Washington County.

Obviously, to determine what was the "northwest corner" one must be historically conversant with the intention of the legislature of the Mississippi Territory when Washington County was created to be all the country in the territory between the Pearl and the Chattahoochee Rivers, bounded north by the line from the mouth of the Yazoo River due east to the Chattahoochee, and south by the Thirty First Degree of North Latitude,⁶ and the subsequent Acts creating Wayne County in Mississippi and Clarke County in Alabama? We fixed northwest post is the point where the Indian trading path (which was a definitely established fact) crossed the Choctaw Indian boundary line. Then the surveyor must know the line as fixed in the Mobile conference of 1765 between the British and the Indians.⁸

This line was so run that the Indians could understand it, and was from Hatchitigbee Bluff on the Tombigbee River to the highest waters of Buckatunna River (or creek) in the then recognized, or claimed, Choctaw Nation. Then too, the student of the subject must recognize the Choctaw-Creek Indian treaty which made the watershed between the Tombigbee and Alabama Rivers a dividing line, and this agreement accounts for the *Choctaw Corner*, a local point in the present Clarke County, a short distance from Thomasville.⁹

This "northwest corner" (of Washington County of 1819) therefore must be the post or point fixed by the erection of Wayne County,

⁶Proclamation of Governor Winthrop Sargent, Governor, Mississippi Territory, June 4, 1800.

⁷Acts, Mississippi Territorial Legislature, December 21, 1809; December 10, 1812.

⁸*Colonial Mobile*, Hamilton, Peter J., 1910, p. 242

⁹*Colonial Mobile*, p. 248

Mississippi by Act of December 21, 1809 which is legally designated by the words "beginning on the line of demarcation" (that is the boundary line between Spanish West Florida and the United States), "where the trading road leading from Mobile into the Indian Nation crosses the same (this is the Thirty-First Degree North Latitude), thence along the said trading road to the present Choctaw boundary line_____." ¹⁰

That point, the focus of the trading path and the Choctaw line, became the corner of Wayne and Washington Counties¹¹ _____ the former being created out of territory of Washington County west of that point to the Pearl River. So when, in 1819, the State line was to be fixed, this already arrived at point (the place where the road crossed a boundary understood by the Indians) was so well known that the surveyor could "point" or "run" (to use a more technical term) his line in a "straight line." And, as well, having this fixed, he could then aim "due south" (as the law directed) to the Gulf.

Local Controversies

The old contentions of some Twenty years standing between the settlers in the Eastern section of the territory and those nearer the Pearl River (which had begun around 1800) again manifested themselves. As the territory of Wayne County, Mississippi extended (and Greene County still farther) East into the Alabama Territory _____ as the Great Indian trading road ran northwest _____ these settlers did not want to be in Alabama, and Mississippi objected to giving up that much territory to the new State. This fact accounts for the exercise of that discretionary power allowed by the Third section of the Enabling Act which permitted the line to hit a point in the Gulf ten miles east of the mouth of the Pascagoula River, and which causes the State line of Alabama to run southeast instead of "due south."

If one goes into the proceedings of Congress and into the Territorial papers¹² there will be found pronounced views of the differences between the

¹⁰Acts, Mississippi Territorial Legislature, December 21, 1809

¹¹The current Mississippi Code (1942) definition of the Wayne County boundary is, in part, "beginning on the old Choctaw line where the line between Range 9 and Range 10 crosses the same, _____, thence along the Choctaw boundary line to the boundary line between the States of Mississippi and Alabama. _____"

¹²Territorial Papers of the United States, Carter, 1937, Vols. V and VI, *Passim*

settlers on the Mobile and Tombigbee Rivers with those nearer the Mississippi River. On January 9, 1811 Mr. George Poindexter, then Territorial Delegate from Mississippi¹³ presented a report from the Committee of the House of Representatives appointed to inquire into the expediency of admitting the Mississippi Territory into the Union as a separate and independent State.¹⁴ This had reference to the whole Territory. The first definite proposition for a line of division, from north to south, is contained in the report of a Senate Committee made April 17, 1812,¹⁵ which recommended that the eastern boundary of a proposed State of Mississippi to run as follows:

“Up the Mobile River to the point nearest its source which falls on the Eleventh Degree of West Longitude from the City of Washington, thence a course due north until the line intersects the waters of Bear Creek, thence down the said Creek to its confluence with the Tennessee River, thence down the said River to the northern boundary line of said Territory,” (the Thirty-Fifth Parallel of North Latitude).

This was influenced by the December 17, 1811 report of Mr. Poindexter's committee¹⁶ wherein the recommendation was made to run a line from the mouth of the Yazoo River due east to the Chattahoochee River, down that stream to the Thirty-First Degree of North Latitude, thence west along that line to the Perdido River thence down that River to the Gulf of Mexico, thence due west through the middle of Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain to the Mississippi River, and up the same to the point of beginning. This would have admitted the original old Spanish Mississippi Territory of 1798 when the north line was 32° 28' (Thirty-two degrees, Twenty-eight Minutes North Latitude) as the State of Mississippi, leaving the country north of that line ____ to the Thirty-Fifth Parallel ____ to be the Territory of Alabama, this interior country having no seaport

¹³George Poindexter was a native of Louisa County, Virginia, removing early to the Mississippi Territory. He was Territorial Delegate in the Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth Sessions of Congress, and served as Federal Judge before his election as the Second Governor of the State of Mississippi, serving one term, 1820-1822.

¹⁴*American State Papers*, Miscellaneous, 1834, Vol. II, p. 129

¹⁵*American State Papers*, Miscellaneous, 1834, Vol. II, p. 182

¹⁶*American State Papers*, Miscellaneous, 1834, Vol. II, p. 163

and limited river facilities, and throwing the settlers on the Mobile and Alabama and Tombigbee Rivers (the lower stretches at least) in Mississippi, which they did not want.

When the State of Georgia ceded to the United States her claim to the territory north of 32° 28', strenuous efforts were made to secure the admittance of the whole (including the old Spanish territory), but as there was so much opposition to this ---- led by Judge Harry Toulmin¹⁷ and others in the Tombigbee settlement ---- then Mr. William Lattimer,¹⁸ now Mississippi Territorial Delegate to Congress, became convinced that the refusal of the Senate to concur with the House could never be overcome, and he then consented to favor a division into two States. Mr. Lattimer communicated a report favorable to admission of the whole, without division, on December 29, 1815.¹⁹ On December 23, 1816, Mr. Lattimer transmitted another report to the National House of Representatives and set out several facts of differences between the two sections of the country, concluding that it was the opinion of the committee "that the Mississippi Territory should be divided by a north and south line, for the purpose of erecting the same into two separate and independent States." The question then came up "by what line shall the Territory be divided?"²⁰ A number of the committee in the House drew his

¹⁷Harry Toulmin was born at Taunton, England in 1766, was educated as a minister came to Norfolk, Virginia in 1793, moved to Lexington, Kentucky in 1794, was four years president of Transylvania University, and eight years Secretary of State of the State of Kentucky. He was appointed by President Thomas Jefferson as Superior Court Judge in the Mississippi Territory in Washington District, and came to the Tombigbee country in 1804. On the creation of the State in 1819, his judicial functions ceased. He lived to 1824 at Washington Court House.

¹⁸William Lattimer was a native of Virginia who came early to Natchez, and was an active practitioner of medicine. He took part in the territorial politics, and represented the Territory in the eighth, ninth, thirteenth and fourteenth Sessions of Congress. After the organization of the State he was one of the three commissioners, who selected the site of the Capitol at Jackson.

¹⁹*American State Papers*, Miscellaneous, 1834, Vol. II, p. 276

²⁰See *American State Papers*, Vol. II, p. 407 and *Location of Boundaries of Mississippi*, Riley, Publications Mississippi Historical Society, Vol. III, 1900, p. 175.

finger "along the map west of the Tombigbee, from the Tennessee line to the Gulf of Mexico" and it was at once determined that the jurisdiction of that River should belong exclusively to the eastern section of the Territory. Mr. Lattimore objected to this on the grounds that "such a division would give more than an equal portion of the Territory to the eastern section." It was argued with him that even so, most of the "good land" was in the western section.²¹ As such a line would have divided the settlements on the Pascagoula River, Mr. Latimore proposed that the line should be run from the Gulf of Mexico to the northwest corner of Washington County in such a manner as to throw the whole of those counties (those in the Pascagoula country) into the proposed western State. This suggestion also provided that the line run from the trading road crossing (the northwest corner) east to the Tombigbee, along the River to Cotton Gin Port, thence due north to Bear Creek.²² He pressed his advocacy of this line at two meetings of the committee, and it would have been adopted had it not been for the opposition of Judge Toulmin, who represented the Pearl River convention group who had petitioned to move the line as far west as the northeast corner of Hancock County (Mississippi). This argument resulted in the whole question being recommitted, and to save the bill, the committee refused to amend, so the United States Senate "influenced by the sentiments of the Judge" strenuously insisted on making the Pascagoula River the dividing line.²³

Hastily acting to prevent this opposition from making the line at the Pascagoula River, the Mississippi friends on the committee moved the adoption of "a line due south from the northwest corner of Washington County." On the success of this motion in Congress a constitutional convention was authorized, and it met (in the town of Washington (in the present Adams County, Mississippi, six miles from Natchez) July 7, 1817, when resolutions passed memorializing the United States Congress to extend the limits of the new State to include, at least, all the settlements on the west side of the Mobile and Tombigbee Rivers. Clarke, Monroe, Mobile, Washington, and Baldwin Counties in the Alabama Territory presented to the same Senate committee, through Judge Toulmin, a counter petition setting forth several reasons why the people of the Alabama Territory did not want to be Mississippians,

²¹*Location of Boundaries of Mississippi*, Riley, Publications Mississippi Historical Society, 1900, Vol. III, p. 175.

²²Riley, p. 176

²³Riley, p. 176

did not consent to be, and giving facts to show that there were two natural reasons for a division as proposed ---- the Mobile, Tombigbee, Alabama basins influence, and the Pearl, Yazoo, Mississippi Rivers settlements influence.²⁴

Riley, the Mississippi historian, tersely says, "These arguments seem to have been effective, since the line for the division of the Territory as designated in the Enabling Act was allowed to remain and passed into the first Constitution of Mississippi as the eastern boundary of the State."²⁵ Examination

of the map shows a southeast line from the Washington County corner ---- not a "due south" one ---- so, find your reason for this in that "discretionary power," and in the 1837 authorized survey which fixed the Mississippi line which in itself, through the constitutionally adopted words "in a southerly direction along the line of Mississippi" makes our western line of Alabama.

²⁴Riley, p. 178-179

²⁵Riley, p. 181

